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Israeli Arabs get \$10m. 'to lobby for Palestine'

STEVE RODAN

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat ordered \$10 million allocated to Israeli Arab parties and municipalities to form a lobby for the establishment of a Palestinian state, according to documents obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*. But Palestinian Authority officials declared the documents a forgery obtained and distributed by right-wing Israeli circles to embarrass the government.

In a letter dated August 15, 1994, and marked top secret, to the chairman of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), Palestinian Authority Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi reports a decision by Arafat to invest millions to spread his influence in the Israeli Arab sector.

"The activity of the Palestinian National Authority should spread inside Israel and concentrate on the Arabs," the Nashashibi letter says.

Nashashibi says responsibility for the recruitment of Israeli Arab support has been given to Arafat's adviser Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli citizen.

"Comrades ought to be chosen from among the members of the Knesset, municipal and local councils, philanthropic organizations, cooperatives, villages, and churches to gain their collaboration," the letter says.

Nashashibi says the \$10 million will be immediately allocated to help Arab councils cover their deficits and as contributions to church leaders and philanthropic organizations.

The letter ends with Nashashibi urging that the funding be kept secret.

In a response to Nashashibi dated August 23, the PECDAR chairman, whose signature is illegible, says that Tibi was contacted about funding a pro-PA lobby among Israeli Arabs. Tibi, the letter says, received the \$10 million in a foreign bank account.

"We have contacted Dr. Ahmed Tibi, who has visited our office personally and he prefers not to talk on the telephone," the letter says. "He assured us of the necessity to pursue the transfer in the same way."

In an August 31, 1994 letter to Nashashibi, PECDAR reports that Tibi was given \$6 million for a secret fund to buy property in Jerusalem. The figure was half that allocated by Arafat.

"The transfer of the amount of \$12 million in the same way is not easy now," the letter says. "The comrade, Dr. Ahmed Tibi has consented to divide the amount and has affirmed that there is no urgency and no prejudice will come out of the postponement."

The PA correspondence has been sent to a congressional body investigating PLO assets and how the authority has used Western donor funding.

Nashashibi maintains the letters are forgeries. But Palestinian and independent sources who have examined the letters say they appear authentic, although probably not written by Nashashibi. The Palestinian sources say numerous letters by the PA are



Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, flanked by Faisal Hussein (left) and Ziyad Abu Zayyad and Hanan Ashrawi, gestures to reporters at Orient House yesterday.

Spring discusses Jerusalem at Orient House

JON IMMANUEL

IRISH Foreign Minister Dick Spring met with an 11-member Palestinian delegation at Orient House for an hour yesterday, turning what was to have been a courtesy call into a discussion of Jerusalem and Irish-Palestinian relations.

Spring's controversial visit, against Israeli wishes, was designed to help deepen Irish involvement in the issues ahead of Ireland's assumption of the presidency of the European Union next year.

"Jerusalem is part of the agenda, not just for the Pales-

tinians but for the international community," one Palestinian participant quoted Spring, as saying.

"He said he and his country are for the implementation of all security council resolutions on Jerusalem and on the occupied territories. Jerusalem is a divided city, and there should be a solution to satisfy both sides," Mohammad Jihadallah, a leading opposition figure, said.

"From Ireland's point of view, we approach these matters

in an evenhanded way and I would like to think that both my visit to Israel and my visit and discussions with Palestinians in Gaza and here would help our relations with both sides," Spring said after the meeting.

The previous night, Spring visited Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza at midnight, because Arafat was flying to Turkey for an official visit.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller caused an uproar when

she paid a sneak 15-minute Saturday morning visit to Orient House last year, without coordinating with Israel.

Members of Women in Green faced Border Police as they protested Spring's visit. "They are building the Palestinian parliament here, why doesn't anybody see that," shouted one woman.

"What will you say to your son 30 years from now when it will be a fact, when there will be a Palestinian state and he will ask you why you did nothing to prevent this holocaust?" asked Rabbi Benny Elon of Beit El.

Disgruntled OC Intelligence announces early retirement

ALON PINKAS

OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy will be replaced on Friday by Brig.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, two months before he was scheduled to step down.

Saguy had asked Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin to relieve him of his duties at the earliest possible date, and Rabin approved the request after consulting with Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

The background behind Saguy's decision is his strained relationship with Shahak, which began even before Saguy was chosen over Saguy as CGS last November.

A feud then developed over Saguy's retirement date, with Saguy claiming that Shahak never discussed retirement details with him. The IDF Spokesman publicly set July 13 as the date, which was then changed to August 13 after Saguy questioned the spokesman's credibility, and in private, that of Shahak.

But what triggered the decision was apparently Shahak's not including Saguy in the preparatory talks held before the Israeli-Syrian military meeting in Washington, and his reluctance to even include Saguy in the delegation.

Shahak has already notified Rabin that the two major-generals who will accompany him and later conduct the talks with the Syrians will be Rabin's military

aide Danny Yatom and OC Planning Branch Uzi Dayan. A brigadier-general from Intelligence will also accompany Shahak.

Yatom and Dayan have been reported as Shahak's choices by the media for the last several weeks, evidently adding to Saguy's frustration.

A senior army source said yesterday that Rabin probably would have ordered Shahak to include Saguy in the talks, by virtue of his role as head of Intelligence and his extensive experience in Syrian affairs over the last several years. But Saguy refused to cooperate with Shahak under the circumstances.

"This is really not about the talks, but about IDF retirement politics, which are, to put it mildly, uncivilized," the source said.

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said that Saguy had met with Rabin and requested to move up his retirement, and that Rabin expressed regret, but accepted the request.

However, sources in the Prime Minister's Office describe a somewhat less tranquil version.

"Saguy was furious, claiming that he only learned from the press that Shahak doesn't want him in the Washington talks. Rabin confirmed that information, and Saguy then asked to be relieved immediately," a Rabin aide said.

Shevardnadze pushing for Georgian embassy in Jerusalem

DAVID MAKOVSKY

GEORGIA may open an embassy in Jerusalem by the end of the year, visiting Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze indicated last night.

When asked directly by *The Jerusalem Post* about a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office heralding what would be the third foreign embassy in the capital, Shevardnadze said, "I started the rumor. Yes, it is true."

However, an informed source counseled caution, noting that the move is pending Shevardnadze's re-election in the fall. Should there be heavy Arab opposition, an embassy may become a diplomatic mission, the source said.

In meetings with senior Israeli officials yesterday, Shevardnadze discussed improving security links, and signed an array of agreements on subjects including aviation and agriculture.

Last night, he appealed to Israeli businessmen to invest in Georgia, which has been beset by separatist problems.

Shevardnadze ends his three-day tour by visiting Ashkelon, home to an estimated 7,000 Georgian Jews.

EIB okays \$300m. for Egypt-Israel joint oil refinery

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE European Investment Bank (EIB) approved a \$300 million credit yesterday for a projected \$1 billion Egyptian-Israeli oil refinery project near Alexandria, according to Nimrod Novik, a businessman involved in the project.

The project, expected to be completed by the end of the decade, would be the largest Arab-Israeli joint venture under way.

According to Novik, a former top aide to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the credit was the highest given to the EIB outside of the European Union. He said the oil refinery will serve the needs of Egypt, Israel and the Palestinians.

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Rabin: We'll take offensive against terror

LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

ISRAEL has made its position on Katyusha attacks from Lebanon known to the US and expects the US has passed it on to Syria, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Labor Knesset faction yesterday.

"We'll see what develops," he said. "This is an ongoing war on terror. We are firm in our stand to protect the settlements on the northern border. The war on terror continues. We are prepared and will act, taking offensive measures."

In Southern Lebanon, there were further exchanges of fire between the IDF and the South Lebanese Army and Hizbullah.

An IDF armored car was attacked, but there were no casualties.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine ordered a series of additional security measures taken to lessen the chances of casualties in a clash with Hizbullah.

He praised the trackers - two of whom died in the attack - saying their work is essential in preventing terrorist infiltrations. Rabin said the security zone had proved itself against such infiltrations.

In the village of Zarzir in the Jezreel Valley, Warrant Officers Hisham Rakkhal Hayeb and Ahni Mohammed Hayeb, the two Beduin trackers killed Sunday, were buried with full military honors.

At the same time, Lt. Col. (res.) Kassem Fahal Hayeb, a former commander of the trackers' unit, said that Israel has and continues to neglect the Beduin. From the day they are discharged from the army, he said, no organization assists them.

"I am sure, Mr. Prime Minister," he said in an emotional appeal to Rabin on Israel Radio, "that you don't know what goes on in every single Beduin village. You have advisers and bureaucrats, people who check and report to you what is going on. But I want to tell you, that Beduin villages are neglected. I urge you to look into this problem."

Rabin said Israel and the SLA worked in cooperation to protect the security zone and its residents.

He said the three IDF soldiers killed on Sunday were the victims of a bomb containing large quantities of iron balls designed to scatter when it was set off. He said apparently the soldiers had been moving toward the position from which RPGs were fired when the device went off, adding such bombs contain 30 kilograms or more of explosives and dozens or even hundreds of small balls.

Although he described Sunday's incident as "a hard blow" he said it is not unusual.

Syria, meanwhile, said yesterday that Israel could expect more attacks on its troops in Southern Lebanon until it withdraws from the area.

The Syrian government newspaper *Tishreen*, commenting on Sunday's attack, said armed resistance is a natural response to the Israeli occupation.

"It's out of the question that members of the patriotic resistance will lay down their arms as long as the occupation continues," it said.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Rabin: Palestinians should accept two-part redeployment

NO agreement on redeployment in the territories is likely to be concluded by July 1 if the Palestinians insist on finalizing both parts of the redeployment at once, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday.

Rabin, speaking after a joint meeting of the Knesset Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defense committees, said the government would prefer not to make any promises regarding Hebron, Ramallah and Bethlehem now, but to concentrate on the agreement to withdraw from Jenin, Tul-karm, Kalkilya, and Nabulus.

"If [the Palestinians] demand that we reach an agreement on both stages, it is very doubtful that we will be able to reach any agreement by July 1," he said. "We would therefore like first to reach an agreement with the Palestinians to deal with the first stage of the redeployment, and make an effort to conclude an

agreement on that by July 1, or shortly thereafter, and leave the agreement on the second stage of the redeployment until after the Palestinian elections, after the Palestinian council has been set up."

Rabin told the committee that the first stage of the redeployment could take several months, or even longer, depending on the progress of the security arrangements requested by the army, such as bypass roads.

"If I knew he would stand by all these promises, I would be reassured," commented Michael Eitan (Likud) afterwards. "But it won't happen."

"The army's most minimal demands haven't even been budgeted," added Ovadia Eli (Likud). "And I know how this works. It's a function of pressures - and I'm not certain Rabin will stand up to

the pressures, which will be both internal and external."

Rabin, however, vented his anger at Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, who had earlier said that "Rabin is afraid to say the word 'no' to [PLO chairman Yasser] Arafat. And because of this fear, Rabin abandons Israel's security... He's incapable of withstanding any pressure."

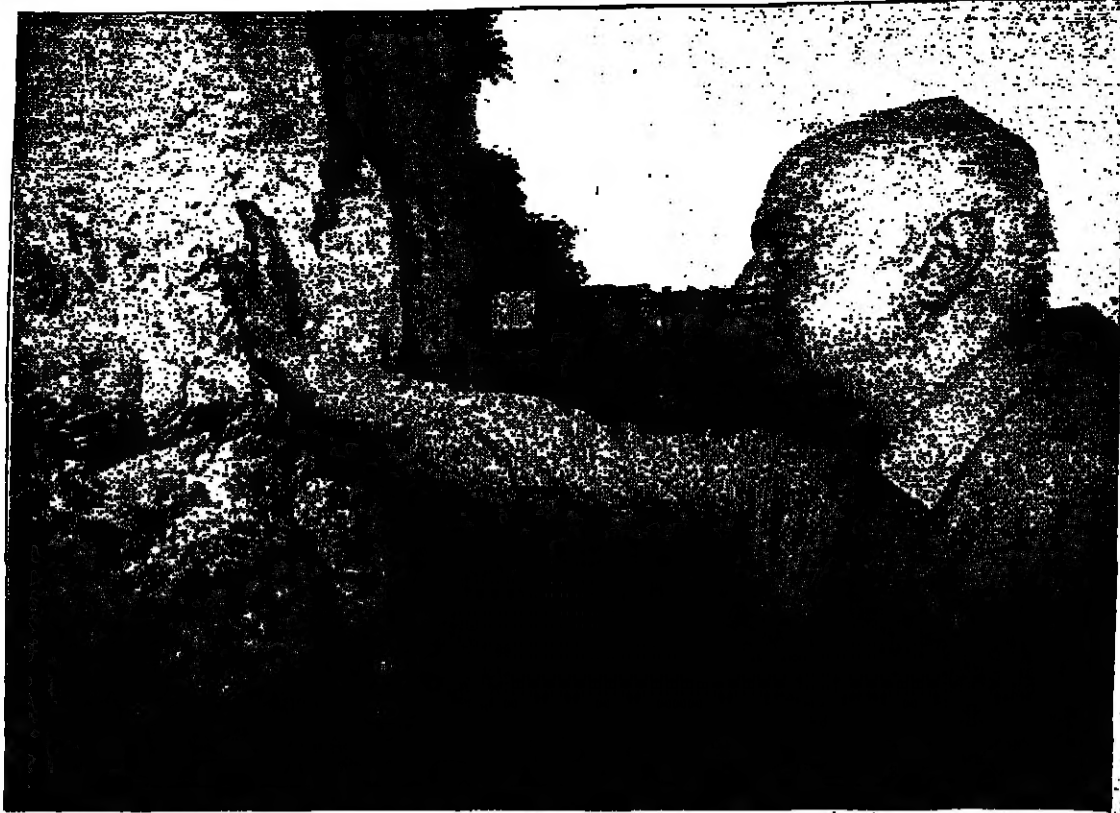
"The prime minister is pulling the wool over the public's eyes when he talks about redeployment," Netanyahu added. "We are talking about a full withdrawal, and delivering the territory to the Palestinian army... This is a step that will create hotbeds of terrorism next to Israel's major population centers."

"I understand that you heard a full-fledged attack from that security expert, the Likud chairman," Rabin responded after the

meeting. "There are people who aren't capable of seeing the changes that are taking place, and of making changes... We're familiar with the Likud's horror stories. They promised us Katyushas from Gaza, but Gaza has been under the primary control of the Palestinian Authority for more than a year now, and there hasn't been a single Katyusha."

"This is not the Likud of Menachem Begin, which dared, and took initiatives, and was willing to pay a heavy price to promote peace," he continued. "Today's Likud is scared to death of peace. And therefore, it reacts absolutely childishly."

MKs from both left and right, meanwhile, attacked Rabin for spending so much money on the redeployment - primarily the bypass roads - if he ultimately intends to give them up the settlements completely. The money then is simply wasted, they said.



Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze visits the Western Wall yesterday. (Brian Heller)

Settlers unveil secretly built road

SETTLEMENT activists unveiled a road yesterday that was secretly built over the last four months, linking a number of settlements in the Judean Desert and forming them into a settlement bloc.

The seven-kilometer dirt road runs from Anatot just north of Jerusalem to Kfar Adumim, Nofei Prat and Alon. A road already exists linking Alon to Mitzpe Yericho.

Pinhas Wallerstein, the head of the Binyamin Regional Council responsible for building the road, said this is just one of a number of such roads being constructed clandestinely in the territories to

form blocs of settlements.

The idea, settlement leaders say, is to create the settlement blocs so that - like Gush Katif - they will remain outside Palestinian autonomous areas.

Wallerstein said an additional reason for the Anatot road, which runs up and down barren hills and which feels at points like a roller coaster ride, is to create an alternative to the main Jerusalem-Jericho highway.

The Jerusalem-Jericho highway is to be part of the "safe passage" linking Jericho with Gaza, and settlement activists are

concerned in case that road is closed down or, for security reasons, becomes problematic to drive on.

Wallerstein said that, as a regional council head, he is legally able to construct the road without getting permission from the civil administration, but that if the IDF tells the regional council to stop construction, it will do so.

"What are they going to do," Wallerstein asked, "tell us to take the road away? If the road is illegal let them take us to court." Wallerstein said the road was built completely on state land.

The civil administration had no comment on the matter, and referred inquiries to the Samaria and Judea Police District.

Peace Now issued a statement calling on the government to put an end to the "wanton and unrestrained behavior of settlers paving unnecessary roads between unnecessary settlements that harm the peace process."

Aharon Domb, spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said the road cost NIS 250,000 to build, with most of that coming from contributions here and abroad.

Levy stays in Likud faction

MK David Levy said yesterday he does not intend to leave the Likud Knesset faction, despite his Sunday announcement that he would establish his own political party.

In a meeting with Likud faction chairman Moshe Katsav, Levy said he would continue to act and vote as part of the Likud and remains faithful to the party platform.

He said if there is a problematic issue, he will consider it on its merits.

The meeting took place in the convivial atmosphere of the MKs' cafeteria, where the two sat at a window table and were occasionally seen laughing and smiling.

Levy's status is still not clear and was described by an onlooker as "an open marriage with the

LIAT COLLINS

party."

The Likud court received a request to expel Levy and his brother Maxim for subverting the party.

Meanwhile, the Likud faction executive, after hearing a report from Katsav, decided not to demand that the Knesset House Committee expel Levy from the faction, although Knesset legal

adviser Zvi Inbar has said this is technically possible.

If Levy does not want to leave of his own accord, the faction can only expel him with the permission of the House Committee.

"For me the parliamentary struggle against this government [is most important], and I want as many votes as possible against

the government," Katsav said, adding that if Levy continues to vote with the opposition, it should be possible to avoid a conflict of interests in the immediate future.

Katsav said since Binyamin Netanyahu's race for prime minister is outside the Knesset, it should not present an obstacle for the moment.

"One needs to differentiate between my preparations for the future and my actions in the Knesset, from the point of view of my membership," said Levy. "I was elected on the Likud platform and remain faithful to it."

Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen has intimated that if the Likud refuses Levy plenum time, his party will accommodate him.

Our deepest condolences to
**Martin Quinn and his family and to
the Yogev family**
on the passing of our friend and colleague

OFRA YOGEV QUINN

Ambassador Martin Indyk
and Jill Indyk
and the entire staff
of the American Embassy

Our deepest condolences and sorrow to
**Martin Quinn and his family and to
the Yogev family**
on the passing of

OFRA YOGEV QUINN

Your bereaved friends and colleagues at the
United States Information Service,
American Embassy

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of
EILEEN RUBIN ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday,
June 20 (22 Sivan) at 6 p.m., departing from the
Sanhedria Funeral Parlor for the Givat Shaul Cemetery.

Her husband, Larry Rubin
Children, Michael Rubin
Alisa Rubin Peled, Alon and
granddaughter Anat
David Rubin

Shiva at 12 Hagdud Ha'Ivri, Jerusalem.

Dr. Ing. RUDOLF SCHMELZ
is no more, June 19, 1995.

He bequeathed his body to science.
Kindly refrain from condolence visits.

His wife: **Dr. Miriam Schmeltz**
Nephews: **John and Tony Werner**
and families

Prof. SIMON BURSSTEIN

To Dr. Sylvianne Bursztein and Family
Deepest sympathy on the death of your
husband and father

The Department of Anesthesia
and the Intensive Care Unit
Carmel Medical Center, Haifa

RABIN

(Continued from Page 1)

"For Israel, the way out of the mess in the south is to withdraw and commit itself to the basic principles of the peace process... an Israeli commitment to those principles is what will bring about stability and security for all the Middle East," the daily's front page editorial added.

The newspaper welcomed a statement by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, whom it quoted as saying there could be no military solution in Southern Lebanon.

Knesset defeats no-confidence motion

THE Knesset easily rejected a no-confidence motion yesterday by a 53-40 vote in what has become an almost routine Monday afternoon plenum procedure. Yesterday's vote was filed by Tsomet over the government's handling of the military industries in general and the Rafael company in particular.

Liav Collins

Rabbis: Halacha forbids withdrawal

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

JEWISH religious law forbids relinquishing any part of Israel, including the Golan, Judea, Samaria and Gaza, a group of Orthodox rabbis said in a statement on Halacha issued at a meeting in New York.

The statement, issued on behalf of the group in the name of Rabbi Abraham Shapira, the former chief rabbi, was read yesterday at a news conference.

The group, called the International Rabbinical Coalition for Israel, says it has 1,500 members in Israel

and the same number in communities around the world. It was started around the time of the Oslo Accords to allow rabbinic leadership to review the new issues that were evolving, said one of the Israeli spokesmen.

The trio that presides over the organization are Shapira, Rabbi Aaron Soloveitchik, dean of the Brisk Yeshiva in Chicago, and Rabbi Joseph Gutnick, senior rabbi of Australia.

TBI

(Continued from Page 1)

written in the names of various officials, some of whom have no knowledge of the correspondence.

Tbi dismissed the letters, which contain typing and grammatical mistakes, as a forgery. "It's an attempt by amateurs," he said. "The letters have so many mistakes they couldn't have been written by any

self-respecting person. I know exactly who is behind this."

Samir Huleileh, a director of PECAR whose signature appears on some of the letters, also said the correspondence is a fabrication.

"I think it is baseless and not worth commenting on," he said. "Everything here is false, including the signatures."

Harizat's family asks court for material on his death

EVELYN GORDON

THE family of Abdel Samad Harizat, who died as the result of a shaking received during a General Security Service interrogation, yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice for the right to obtain all material from the Justice Ministry's investigation of the affair.

Attorney Andre Rosenthal said the family wants the material so it can appeal Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair's decision to file disciplinary, rather than criminal charges against the investigator responsible.

So far, the ministry has agreed to give the family only some of the material - photos of Harizat's brain and a pathologist's report on his eyes. The family wants the rest of the material as well, especially, the transcripts of the ministry's interviews with the GSS investigator.

Furthermore, Rosenthal said, the family wants the material immedi-

ately. The ministry, however, has said that even the items it is willing to release can be given to the family only in two weeks or more.

Since it is clear that the material - which served as the basis for the ministry's decision to file disciplinary charges - already exists, there is no reason for this delay, Rosenthal said.

The Harizat family had filed a similar petition, asking to be given the material its own pathologist, Dr. Derek Pounder of Scotland, needed to complete his report. This petition was withdrawn after the ministry issued its decision, because it did transfer some information. Since Pounder is in South Africa, he has not yet said whether this is enough for his needs, Rosenthal said.

However, Rosenthal said, the information received is clearly not enough to prepare an appeal of the attorney-general's decision.

In deep sorrow and profound grief, we announce the passing
of our beloved mother, grandmother and sister

POLA ZABLUDOWICZ ז"ל

widow of Shlomo Zabłudowicz ז"ל

The funeral will take place on Thursday, June 22, 1995 (24 Sivan 5755)
at 10 a.m. at the Caesarea Cemetery.

Son and daughter-in-law:

Daughter and son-in-law:

Grandchildren:

Brothers:

Poju and Anita Zabłudowicz

Dr. Rebecka and Prof. Arie Beldegrun

Ben, Mia, Ron, Daniel, Roy, Tiffany

Yitzhak Reich and family

Yosef Reich and family

Shmuel Reich and family

Shiva at the family residence, 16 Rehov Ha'oren, Caesarea.

Hebrew U. develops faster, more accurate HIV test

A SERIES of electronic sensors that instantly detect HIV antibodies, neonatal jaundice, and blood-sugar levels in diabetics has been developed by Hebrew University researchers and patented by Yissum, the university's research and development arm.

Unlike conventional tests, the sensors are reusable and have been shown to be highly accu-

rate, the university said yesterday. They are also inexpensive.

Called amperometric immunosensors, they were developed by a team headed by Prof. Itamar Willner of the HU chemistry institute. He was assisted by Dr. Eugeni Katz, and by doctoral students Azalia Riklin and Ron Blinder, all three of whom received the Kaye Award for Science.

JUDY SIEGEL

tific innovation at the university's board of governors meeting yesterday.

The sensors are based on electrodes coated with chemicals that react instantly to the presence of certain biological compounds.

In the case of the AIDS virus, the coating is an antigen mono-

layer that can sense the antibodies to the virus.

The conventional HIV test, performed manually, takes five minutes and the results usually have to be confirmed with a more complex procedure taking six hours.

The new test is said to produce results immediately and with great accuracy and is especially

useful for testing a large number of blood samples.

To detect newborn jaundice, the electrode reacts with bilirubin.

Diabetics can test their blood sugar level with another compound. Speed is important for diabetics so they can maintain suitable blood sugar levels throughout the day.

Skin cancer a higher risk for newcomers

JUDY SIEGEL

MELANOMA, the most deadly kind of skin cancer, is likely to be diagnosed at a significantly later stage among Arabs and former immigrants — especially those from the CIS, North America, and Europe — than among native Israelis, according to the Israel Cancer Association, which has launched a Skin Cancer Awareness Week as summer begins.

Despite increasing knowledge about melanoma, over two-thirds of cases are still diagnosed at a later stage, when the tumor has penetrated lower layers of the skin and reached other organs. A quarter to half of these patients are liable to die of the disease within 10 years of diagnosis, according to the ICA. Some 400 cases of melanoma are discovered each year, comprising 3.5 percent of all new cases of cancer.

Immigrants from the former Soviet Union, who are more likely to be light skinned and unused to the intense Israeli sun, are at greater risk. Their melanoma is diagnosed at an early stage only 13 percent of the time, when at that stage, before the tumor has dangerously spread, the cure rate is 88 percent among women and 80 percent among men.

Unlike recent years, in which awareness weeks have centered on schools and at IDF bases and in the media, the current campaign will also be brought directly to people who risk overexposure to the sun's dangerous rays — at the beach.

The organizers, who include Kupat Holim Clalit, the Health Ministry and the societies of dermatologists and plastic surgeons, are making a special effort at the workplace as well. For the first time, workers at Mekorot, the water supply company, who work outdoors most of the day will hear lectures on melanoma prevention, be supplied with protective clothing and sun protection lotions, and undergo periodic eye and skin examinations.

Melanoma often develops in hidden areas, such as the scalp, on men's hairy chests and between the toes. Because they are hard to see, they are usually diagnosed late, says the ICA.

Teenagers are more aware of the risks, but many still lie on the beach during peak danger hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free skin checks will be carried out by volunteer doctors. For more information call ICA's Tel-Aviv number, (03) 571-7888.

Marriage blacklist has been cut down

HERB KEINON

THE number of names on a blacklist of those forbidden for halachic reasons from marrying in this country has been cut from 4,150 to 3,800, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau said yesterday.

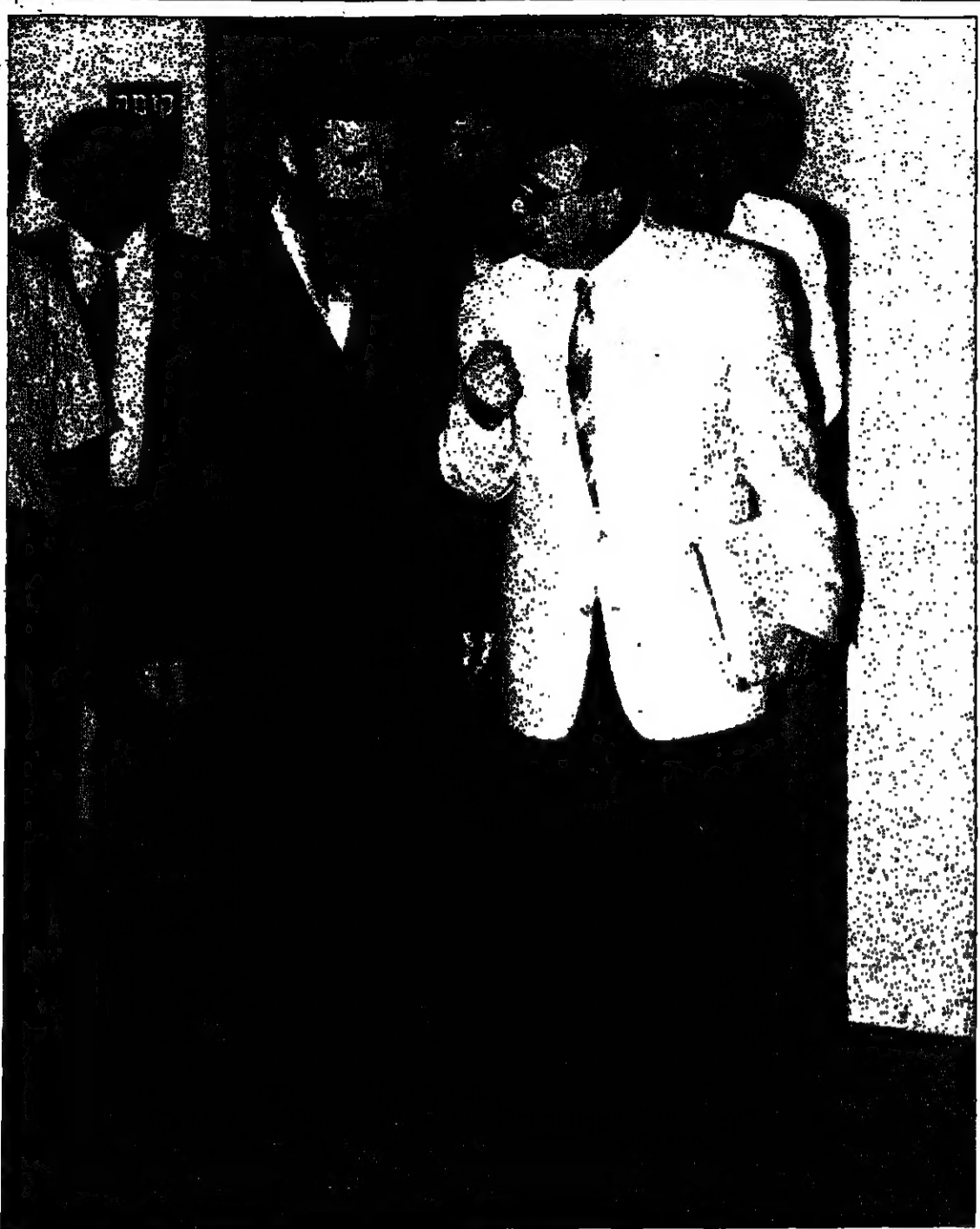
Lau, along with 10 of the 14 other members of the Chief Rabbinate Council, met with Minister of Religious Affairs Shimon Shetreet yesterday to discuss his proposal to reform how the list is managed. This is the first time Shetreet has met with the council, and comes following harsh criticism by the rabbinate of Shetreet's proposals to change the administration of the blacklist.

Shetreet backed down last week from his original proposal that a registrar, and not the rabbis, have the final word on who is included in the list. Lau termed the atmosphere of the meeting "very, very good."

"It was agreed upon by everyone, including the religious affairs minister, that it was good that the issue was being dealt with, and that the criterion for inclusion on the list would only be halachic. The minister said he will not move an inch from Halacha on the issue," Lau said.

Lau told Shetreet that "no foreign body" can have a hand in marriage and divorce issues, because this would split the Jewish people and would lead to a number of different marriage registries being set up, just as there are a number of different kashruth supervisory bodies today.

Shetreet told Israel Radio after the



Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet makes a point yesterday with Migdal Ha'emek Chief Rabbi David Grossman after the Chief Rabbinate Council met in Jerusalem.

meeting that he stands by his controversial suggestion that those unable halachically to marry in this country be sent abroad and married in civil

ceremonies. "We cannot remain apathetic to those people who cannot marry according to Israeli law," Shetreet said. He said there are some

100,000 people in this category, most of them immigrants from the former Soviet Union whose Jewishness is in doubt.

Treasury officials rap meddling of Foreign Ministry

EVELYN GORDON

THE Treasury and the Industry and Trade Ministry cooperate well overseas, but the Foreign Ministry's recent involvement in economic issues has thrown a wrench in the works, Treasury officials told the State Control Committee yesterday.

Last week, Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish had told the committee that Foreign Ministry officials, by meddling in matters they do not understand, seriously damaged Israel's economic interests overseas. Yesterday, the committee asked the Treasury for its opinion, since the Treasury is the third body involved in Israel's overseas economic representations.

"There are no differences of opinion between [the Treasury and the Industry and Trade Ministry] on how to run the network [of economic representations overseas]," began Dr. Ehud Kaufman, head of the Treasury's international division. However, he said, the Foreign Ministry has recently decided to get involved as well, and that has caused some difficulties.

"We now have to bring all the embassies under one umbrella [together with us], since [economics] has become their main activity," he said.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat also implied that there have been problems integrating the Foreign Ministry into the network.

Kaufman said that in some cities, the Treasury has been reducing its presence and leaving the job entirely to Industry and Trade Ministry representatives. For instance, he said, the Treasury recently withdrew its attaches in both London and Brussels.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Policeman shoots man 'to calm him down'

A Jerusalem policeman was arrested yesterday after shooting a man in the leg during a quarrel between neighbors in Petah Tikva. The policeman was staying with his girlfriend, he said, when a neighbor, with whom the family had a longstanding quarrel, burst into the apartment and started making threats. The policeman told investigators he pulled his gun and shot him in the leg "to calm him down."

Government to aid Leumit

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved NIS 155 million in aid for the financially troubled Likud-affiliated Kupat Holim Leumi. Leumi has been claiming for months that since the Histadrut-affiliated Kupat Holim Clalit received financial aid to keep it afloat, it ought to get the same, since it is also in dire straits.

The committee also approved NIS 132m. to be distributed among all the health funds, as a one-time grant to help them cope with the transition to the National Health Law.

Neil Young set for Sultan's Pool

Neil Young is about to find himself in a jam. The venerable folk-rock star, whose idiosyncratic high-pitched, quavering voice contrasts sharply with his frequent use of crunching electric guitar sounds, is scheduled to appear at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool on August 22, backed up by members of Pearl Jam, one of America's hottest bands. Only one performance is slated so far, his publicists said yesterday.

Per capita consumption of pure alcohol doubles since 1980

JUDY SIEGEL

PER CAPITA consumption of pure alcohol among Israelis has doubled to two liters a year, compared to 1980.

But it is still way behind that of Germans (12 liters) and British (seven liters).

These statistics were released this week by the Health Ministry, which is planning to participate in the World Health Organization's first international meeting of health ministers on alcohol abuse, scheduled for Paris in December.

Dr. Jorge Glaser, the ministry's director of drug abuse treatment, re-

turned recently from a preparatory meeting in Bern. He said he expects the ministers will in December announce joint strategies for a war on alcohol abuse.

A 1993 survey of schoolchildren found that at 15, 17.2 percent of boys and 8% of girls drank beer at least once a week; 8.4% of boys and 5.6% of girls had been drunk at least twice.

The incidence of chronic liver disease due to drinking has remained stable between 1980 and 1992: 8.33 cases per 100,000 Israelis.

Kinneret fish poisoned

THOUSANDS of fish were poisoned yesterday morning near where the Jordan River flows into the Kinneret.

Eating the poisoned fish is believed hazardous to one's health.

The incident occurred only a day after the area was reopened for fishing. The area is off-limits to fishermen during the spring to allow fish to spawn naturally, but some fishermen are known to have tried to fish there anyway despite the ban.

Local fishermen believe local criminal elements who use such poison in fishing to make quick profits are responsible. Several suspects were arrested, but police are still not sure those responsible were apprehended.

Researchers said the poisoning was particularly serious since it affected not only large fish but thousands of smaller ones only recently born. (Itan)

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Members of French leftist group go on trial

News agencies
PARIS

SEVEN alleged members of the leftist terrorist group Direct Action went on trial yesterday before a special court for 33 bomb attacks committed in the Paris region between 1982-86, including one that permanently maimed a passer-by.

The now-defunct French group waged all-out war on "Western imperialism," claiming six killings and 80 attacks before its alleged leaders were captured in a remote farmhouse in 1987.

Nine of the group's members are already in prison, including five of the seven going on trial yesterday. The trial was expected to last about 10 days.

The other four are serving two life sentences each for the 1985 murder of Rene Audran, a high-ranking Defence Ministry official, and the 1986 slaying of Renault car chairman Georges Besse.

Among those seated before the seven-judge panel were Andre Olivier, 52, founder of the group's "nationalist branch" allegedly responsible for the bombings, and Maxime "Max" Frerot, 38, said to have served as the bomb-maker.

During the four-year period of attacks, the group struck at diverse targets from political party headquarters to the Defense Ministry and oil giant Elf Aquitaine and Total. It's declared mission was the "armed communist struggle for the destruction of capitalist society."

Many of the bombings occurred overnight when personnel had gone home. But a passer-by was permanently blinded and maimed in a daytime attack on the Citrus Marketing Board of Israel in 1982.

Targets, according to prosecutors, were Paris offices of the Citrus Marketing Board of Israel, the Leumi-Israel Bank, the energy firm Elf-Aquitaine, the car-maker Renault, the state-owned airline UTA and the state-owned Total oil firm.

The Lyon-based "nationalist" branch vowed solidarity with Direct Action's "international branch," but is not implicated in the assassinations carried out by that faction.

Olivier and Frerot were sentenced to life in prison in the 1989 trial which focused on a series of hold-ups billed by the group as "political financing."



The last 26 UN peacekeepers - from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Russia - wait as their plane prepares for takeoff from Belgrade Airport yesterday. (AP)

Last 26 UN peacekeepers freed; lethal shelling of Sarajevo resumes

News agencies
SARAJEVO

THE last 26 hostages freed by Bosnian Serbs yesterday arrived at UN headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia after recalling the fear and boredom of their 23-day captivity.

There were no fresh reports on the biggest-ever government offensive to crack the siege of Sarajevo, in which the Bosnian army made some gains and at least temporarily interrupted two Serb supply routes.

The Serbs retaliated with shelling. Seven people were killed and 12 wounded when a shell smashed into a queue for water Sunday. Yesterday a young mother was killed and her infant son seriously wounded in shelling of government-held Hrasnica, on Sarajevo's western outskirts.

Some of the released peacekeepers said that they feared for their lives at the start of their 23-day captivity.

Mark Helgers said he was told they would be shot, and ordered to take his uniform off. "I had no choice," he said. He got it back later.

More than 370 peacekeepers were seized as hostages against further air strikes after NATO planes bombed ammunition dumps near the rebel Serb stronghold of Pale on May 25 and 26.

"I was afraid of new airstrikes," said Jos Gelissen, another Dutch observer. He said he was first handcuffed to a legpole, then close to an ammunition depot, to save off more NATO bombing. "First days were awful, later it was boring," Gelissen said.

The 26 freed captives traveled by bus Sunday

from Pale to Novi Sad, Serbia, 80 km north of Belgrade, before returning to UN headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia.

"I'm not sure whether we've been at a lower ebb than we are now," said UN spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward.

"There's an opportunity now where we can take some profit from the situation," he said. The return of the hostages and pulling guards out of weapons depots on Serb-held land meant there were fewer potential hostages to prevent future vigorous action, Coward said.

"We hope that by having reestablished some security around Sarajevo for our troops that we may enter a new relationship (with the Bosnian Serbs) and gain reasonable freedom of access for the delivery of humanitarian supplies," Coward said.

Bosnian Serb forces appeared to have regained a key supply route, defeating Bosnian government forces in recent heavy fighting, a UN official who used the road above Sarajevo said yesterday.

"The road between Sarajevo and Pale is under Serb control. There are no craters and there's no damage to the road and we were able to come back without any problems," said Phil Corwin, the head of UN civil affairs in Bosnia.

United Nations officials in Sarajevo said they would try to begin a new relationship with the

Bosnian Serb authorities after the release of the last hostages seized in retaliation for NATO air strikes more than three weeks ago.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government army launched an offensive around Sarajevo on Thursday to ease Serb pressure on the city.

On Friday they fought a vicious uphill battle against besieging Serbs and were thought to have won control of the road linking Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale to a major barracks at Lukavica, south of Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serbs denied they had lost the road, a vital link between Serb-held Sarajevo and its military support.

Government sources said on Saturday their men had blown up the road and pulled back to secure positions from where they could fire on Serb traffic attempting to use the route.

Corwin's vehicle passed Serb soldiers walking along stretches of the road. A UN official said: "It seems Serbs control the road but the Bosnian army can still shoot down on it. They just didn't shoot Corwin."

The apparent failure to cut the road suggested the Bosnian army offensive had stalled although Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said on Sunday his forces would halt only if Serbs eased their strangulation of his capital.

Sarajevo has been mostly quiet, with the UN surprised there have been no more attacks.

Bosnian Serbs kept up their military pressure, killing at least seven civilians by firing a mortar shell into people waiting to fill water buckets at a communal tap Sunday.

US takes risks in weighing fresh nuclear tests

LONDON (Reuters) - The United States has cast doubt on a future global treaty banning nuclear tests and added to growing concerns about disarmament by announcing that it could resume underground explosions, analysts say.

Critics say the world's nuclear powers seem to be backing away from international commitments in this field, following China's recent nuclear blast and France's decision last week to resume tests in the South Pacific.

"It looks as though they're encouraging each other to renege on promises made," said Suzanne van Moyland of the independent Verification Technology Information Centre (VERTIC) in London.

"It's very bad news and a lot of non-nuclear weapons states are going to be very concerned. This is exactly the sort of thing that could encourage others to develop weapons in secret."

Jessica Mathews of the US Council on Foreign Relations wrote in a newspaper article last week that such a change of policy by Washington would be a "breath-taking breach of faith."

"It would...rob the United States of any credibility in pushing others to rein in proliferation," she wrote.

Only last month, more than 170 nations agreed at a conference in New York to make permanent a treaty preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

The United States and its nuclear partners lobbied hard for the indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and won agreement from all other

states by promising to disarm further, and complete a comprehensive test ban treaty.

"There was a lot of goodwill at the time because a bargain was struck," said Van Moyland. "That may now be thrown away."

China and France have been widely condemned for their actions, although both argue that they still intend to complete a test ban treaty at talks in Geneva next year - a view supported by the United States, Russia and Britain.

But a decision to resume testing by the United States, owner of the world's biggest nuclear arsenal after Russia, would cause even more outrage and bring charges of hypocrisy. Washington has urged restraint on others and criticised both China and France.

Nevertheless, US Defense Secretary William Perry said Washington would decide soon whether to resume testing to make sure its weapons were safe and reliable.

Until now, the United States has said that a test ban treaty should allow it to continue laboratory experiments involving "minute" yields of just a few kg, a position broadly accepted by other countries in the Geneva talks.

But Perry said another option could be testing of nuclear bombs with yields of 100 to 200 tonnes of high explosives.

Although this would be far smaller than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 50 years ago, arms experts say it would mean that the test ban treaty would not be a "ban" at all - but a treaty setting a threshold for continued nuclear tests.

Couple in a barrel survive Niagara Falls

TORONTO (Reuters) - An American couple who went over Niagara Falls in a barrel emerged with only minor injuries but were handed over to police yesterday after becoming the first man-woman pair to accomplish the feat.

Steve Trotter of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Lori Martin of Atlanta were treated at a hospital for minor injuries and then turned over to police, the Canadian Press news agency reported.

Their fiberglass air-tight capsule got wedged behind rocks at the base of the falls and it took rescue workers an hour to free them. Upon emerging, Trotter made the sign of the cross and then collapsed onto his waiting stretcher.

"I just wanted to do one thing that no man had ever done before - take a woman, the first woman ever to go since 1901," Trotter, a bartender who made a solo trip over the falls in 1985, said from a hospital bed.

Asked if she would do it again, a shaken Martin said: "No, never. Once is enough."

The two were treated for shock, minor bumps and bruises after their 15-second descent down the falls, a spectacular 55-meter cascade of water that is a popular honeymoon destination.

Their stunt attracted a throng of cheering supporters, but they were then taken to jail and are expected to be charged yesterday with trespassing, criminal mischief and violations of parks law, police said. They may be slapped with thousands of dollars in fines and prison sentences.

Their high-tech barrel was a three-meter white fiberglass capsule, wrapped with the bulletproof material Kevlar and covered in thick Styrofoam. Trotter's girlfriend, Gina Hall, told Canadian Press that it cost \$25,000 and was equipped with air tanks.

Trotter and Martin were the second pair to complete the feat. Two men survived the ride down the falls in 1989.

Police quell New Jersey immigrant uprising

ELIZABETH, New Jersey (AP) - About 300 detainees at a center for illegal aliens went on a rampage for nearly six hours to protest conditions, smashing furniture and breaking windows until police stormed the building.

Nearly 200 police officers descended on the privately operated Esmor Immigration Detention Center at 6 a.m., subduing the detainees with pepper spray and freeing two guards who were held in separate areas of the facility.

A third guard hid in a ceiling crawl space until police arrived. Police had described the seizure of the guards as a hostage situation, but Union County prosecutor Andrew Ruotolo later said the guards weren't held against their will.

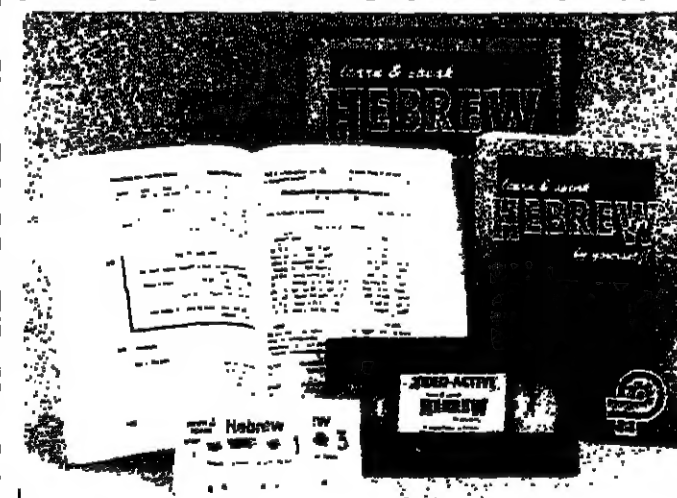
The detainees, who were awaiting deportation hearings and most of whom had applied for political asylum, caused an estimated \$100,000 worth of damage to the center, making it uninhabitable. They were moved to other US Immigration and Naturalization Service facilities in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, said Michael Lapolla, a Union County prosecutor.

About 15 detainees suffered minor injuries. Lapolla said no charges had been filed, pending decisions on jurisdiction issues.

The uprising "apparently stemmed from growing discontent over conditions at Esmor," Lapolla said. The center opened last August.

Former detainees at the center have complained of blaring televisions, bright lights left on 24 hours a day, spoiled food and physical abuse.

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Red-faced Simpson prosecutors try to refocus on domestic violence

LOS ANGELES (AP) - O.J. Simpson made prosecutors look foolish when he struggled in court to put on a pair of bloody gloves found at the murder scene and at his mansion. Now, the prosecution hopes to turn the tables on Simpson by returning to domestic violence evidence.

The shift back to the stormy relationship Simpson had with ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson is an attempt to change the trial's mood, said Loyola University law professor Laurie Levenson.

"They want to remind jurors why they think O.J. could be guilty of this brutal crime."

But prosecutors must work carefully in revisiting this sensitive area, analysts said.

"There's now a feeling that

there's a lot of (domestic) violence out there but they don't necessarily all kill their spouses," said Harland Braun, a Los Angeles defense attorney and former prosecutor.

Among the witnesses expected to testify this week is Alfred Acosta, a chauffeur who has said that in the late 1980s he picked up the Simpsons from a Beverly Hills nightclub and saw Simpson hit Ms. Simpson in the face.

Another limo driver, Albert Aguilera, was expected to testify that he saw Simpson strike his wife and knock her to the ground at Victoria Beach in 1987.

In addition, the prosecution was seeking to present testimony from Ms. Simpson's onetime baby sitter who claims the former football star stalked his ex-wife

after their divorce and once called her 50 times in one day.

Defense attorneys have objected to allowing the baby sitter to testify on the grounds she was added too late to the prosecution witness list. Superior Court Judge Lance Ito has not yet ruled on the objection.

The domestic violence testimony marks a sharp departure from the lengthy physical and scientific evidence presented in recent months, capped by the prosecutors' awkward effort to tie Simpson to the gloves found near the bodies and at his house.

The prosecution had just called witnesses to show that Ms. Simpson may have unwittingly bought the killer's brown leather gloves in 1990. Then, prosecutors asked Simpson to try them on.

Simpson's struggle to jam his large hands into the bloodstained murder gloves provided jurors with a dramatic image. The defense contends the demonstration showed Simpson was not the killer.

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Truckers describe Belgian blast horror

EYNATTEN, Belgium (Reuters) — Two British truck drivers described yesterday how they rescued wounded people after an explosion at a Belgian motorway restaurant which killed at least 16 people, including several children.

The truckers dragged three seriously injured people out of the restaurant after the blast before it was engulfed in flames, but watched helplessly as other victims died in the blaze.

"It was total carnage. My first reaction was to help people trying to get out," said Alan Sharpe, from Nottingham, England, said he dragged three people out of the collapsed building but was prevented from doing more after fire swept it.

"We managed to get three people to the grass nearby and Alan wanted to go back in again. I looked up and the fire started. There was no way anyone could go back in," said trucker John Pitt.

"There were people screaming for help and we could do nothing," said Pitt, who looked pale and close to tears.

He said part of the roof collapsed as he and Sharpe approached one of the people calling out for help.

A police official said the victims included two children and Belgian media said a baby also died.

Pitt and Sharpe had left the restaurant about 10 minutes before the explosion after deciding the offer of a beer from another British trucker, who died in the

blast.

The other known dead were 10 Belgians, a family of four Germans, and a Croatian. Their bodies were taken to the eastern town of Liege for identification.

Rescuers continued searching for victims in the blackened, smouldering ruins of the restaurant yesterday. Two cranes were lifting twisted girders to see if more bodies lay underneath.

"Inside it was horrific. People were screaming, one body hung from the ceiling," said Sharpe.

Belgium's King Albert visited the scene and later comforted relatives of the victims, silent with grief, gathered at a makeshift Red Cross center in the primary school in Eynatten.

He personally thanked the two British drivers for their rescue action, a palace spokeswoman said.

Examining magistrate Rolf Lenoertz, announcing an investigation, said first indications pointed to a gas leak in the restaurant's kitchen. A criminal act was virtually ruled out.

The adjacent petrol station was damaged but was not the source of the explosion, said Bruno Fagnoul, mayor of nearby Raeren.

The restaurant manager said the explosion appeared to have occurred beneath the restaurant floor. Witnesses said the building collapsed like a pack of cards.

Three of the five employees died, including the restaurant's cook, Thierry Warnotte, 26, who was to have married his six-months-pregnant girlfriend this weekend, said restaurant manager Lilianne Jacquemyn.



Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev holds last-minute talks with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin (inset) before leaving the hospital he and his men captured in the Russian city of Budyonovsk. Basayev released some hostages but, under an agreement with the Russian government, others were still being held as the rebels made their way back to Chechnya. (AP)

Hospital hostage crisis puts premier Viktor Chernomyrdin in limelight

PRIME Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has been thrust into the political limelight with unprecedented negotiations on live television to free hundreds of hostages held by Chechen rebels.

His decision to so publicly take charge of the crisis in southern Russia has intensified speculation, already running high, about Chernomyrdin's political ambitions.

The hostage crisis marks the final stage of his transformation from a colorless, if competent, bureaucrat into a political leader in his own right. Yesterday, Chernomyrdin persuaded the Chechen gunmen to free most of their hostages in the southern town of Budyonovsk and leave for Chechnya with voluntary prisoners.

But Chernomyrdin's transformation is risky. A higher profile makes a better target, and several ambitious politicians wasted no time taking aim.

"It's disgusting," former Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov said yesterday of the televised negotiations.

If Chernomyrdin has presidential ambitions, he has kept them carefully to himself. There is speculation, however, that he would run if Yeltsin cannot or will not.

This spring Chernomyrdin formed — reportedly at Yeltsin's urging — a centrist political party. The party, "Our Home: Russia," includes many key figures in the Yeltsin administration and political commentators immediately dubbed it the "party of power."

Over the weekend, while Chernomyrdin moved to the political forefront, his boss was in Halifax, Nova Scotia, attending a Group of

Seven meeting. Russian television showed him attending state dinners and going to the circus, while politicians and newspapers at home blasted him for being absent during the hostage crisis.

Six buses carrying the Chechen rebels and their civilian "human shields" from the Budyonovsk yesterday evening stopped near the settlement of Kurskaya close to the border with Chechnya.

Some 10 km south of Kurskaya, the buses pulled up and turned round, before stopping again soon afterwards. Russian helicopter gunships circled low around the column, correspondents following the convoy said. A group of Russian commandos were digging in some three km from the buses.

It was not immediately clear why the column, which had travelled about 80 km south from Budyonovsk towards Chechnya, had stopped or changed direction.

Itar-Tass news agency reported that close to Kurskaya Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev had demanded and was given a can of motor oil.

The column left Budyonovsk at about 4 p.m. after Chernomyrdin guaranteed the rebel fighters safe passage home.

Soon afterwards the hundreds of hostages who had been held for five days in Budyonovsk's hospital, left the building.

"It was five days of horror," said one man as he staggered out into the sunshine, supporting another man on his shoulder. The hostages began leaving the hospital minutes after the gunmen had driven away in the buses.

Some of the more distraught women were crying hysterically as they slowly made their way out of the hospital where they had been held captive since June 14.

Frantic local inhabitants searched through the crowd for relatives and howls of relief could be heard as family members and friends were found to be safe.

The prime minister stepped into the hostage crisis after Russian troops made two failed, bloody attempts Saturday to storm the hospital in the town of Budyonovsk.

In Canada, Yeltsin said he had authorized the attacks, which ended up killing or wounding dozens of hostages.

Chernomyrdin, by contrast, gave in to many of the rebels' demands. It seemed a sharp contrast to Yeltsin's tough stance, but aides insisted the prime minister was in close contact with the president throughout the crisis.

Chernomyrdin's decision to assume such a high profile in the hostage crisis is all the more surprising given his low profile in the seven-month Chechen war.

He appeared to be out of the loop on Chechnya, but given the war's unpopularity, out of the loop could be the right place to be in an election year. Yeltsin's already slumping popularity sank into the single digits after the war began.

Le Pen vows to enforce anti-immigrant steps

PARIS (Reuters) — France's far-right National Front pledged yesterday to implement anti-immigrant policies without breaking the law after defying the political mainstream to grab control of three southern towns.

Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen predicted the party's new mayors would have to battle to implement its "national preference" policy of favoring native French for jobs, housing, education and welfare.

"We will never be outside the law," said Jean-Marie Le Pen, the new National Front mayor of Toulon naval port.

With a population of 167,000, Toulon was the biggest town to fall to the party as it won its first durable role in local French politics after two decades of trying.

The Front, long dismissed as a fringe fascist or racist group, also captured the aerospace industry centre of Marignane, north of Marseille, and the southern Rhone valley town of Orange, previously best known for its Roman theatre and triumphal arch.

"Three stains on France," the left-leaning daily newspaper Liberation said in its main headline on Sunday's municipal elections.

Adding to the far-right gains, a former Front member and friend of Le Pen, Jacques Peyrat, was elected mayor of Nice, France's sixth largest city.

Le Pen said he expected clashes between the new Front mayors and local prefects representing

central government over the party's policy of favouring native French people.

"There will be political confrontations with the prefects," he said.

Front mayors would choose "French people instead of foreigners every time it is possible and every time it is desirable," Le Pen told La Chaine Info television.

Current government policy favoured foreigners, he added.

Critics say Le Pen's policies will break discrimination laws.

Le Pen won 15 percent in the French presidential elections earlier this year with a platform that included a pledge to send home three million immigrants.

Le Chevallier told France 2 television that legal immigrants would have nothing to fear in Toulon but he hoped illegal immigrants would go somewhere else. He said he wanted to strengthen the police.

Before Sunday, the Front's only municipal success had been short-lived control of the southern village of Saint-Gilles.

President Jacques Chirac's conservatives lost their monopoly on power in the capital, which he ruled as mayor for 18 years until his election in May, but they retained a clear majority.

The Socialists captured six of the 20 Paris districts following a series of housing scandals, a setback for lackluster new mayor Jean Tiberi who succeeded Chirac a month ago and an embarrassment for the new president.

Indian killer rains replace killer heat

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — Monsoon storms caused widespread flooding in India yesterday but appeared to break the back of a three-week-long heat wave which has killed more than 550 people, news agencies said.

At least 12 people died in northeastern India, including three in landslides, following torrential rains which began arriving earlier this month with the annual monsoon, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Six people were killed, including a worker putting a roof on a house, and three others were injured when they were struck by lightning near Aurangabad city in the western state of Maharashtra, the news agency said.

At least three people drowned on Dal Lake in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state when storm winds tipped over five "shikaras" ferry boats carrying them back from a picnic, United News of India (UNI) said.

Five people were killed in the southern state of Kerala in flooding.

Khan-Goldsmith wedding is Britain's social event of the year

MOSLEM Pakistani cricketing legend Imran Khan marries Jemima Goldsmith, a Jewish heiress half his age, today at a civil ceremony billed as the high point of the social season in Britain.

The marriage of Khan, a devout Moslem who was once one of the world's most eligible bachelors, and Goldsmith, a party-loving socialite who converted to Islam, has already proved a headline-grabbing mix of religion, money and sex appeal.

The ceremony will take place in the London suburb of Richmond followed by dinner in giant marquees on the lawns of the nearby mansion of her father, tycoon Sir James Goldsmith, and a midsummer ball.

"I'm very much looking forward to the big day," said the 21-year-old bride-to-be at the prospect of marrying Khan, 42, who retired from cricket after leading Pakistan to victory in the 1992 World Cup.

The 200-plus society guests and the gossip writers who report their every move may be in party mood but local officials in Richmond are filled with dread.

PETER MILLERSHIP LONDON

"Basically there's going to be a scrum. There's nothing we can do," said a spokesman for Richmond Council. "This has all the worst aspects of a royal wedding but is being regarded as a small family affair. There's going to be a cast of thousands."

Barricades are being erected, extra traffic police are being brought in and special officers will be on hand in case any groups try to disrupt the marriage of Khan and Goldsmith. Her father is also Jewish.

The two have already been married at a simple Islamic ceremony last month at Sir James Goldsmith's Paris home.

On that occasion Khan wore a traditional Pakistani outfit in brown and off-white while Goldsmith's outfit was mustard-colored. She also wore a dupatta, a traditional Moslem head-covering, during the ceremony.

What the blonde heiress would wear today was still a secret.

The wedding has been under

enth richest man.

Princess Diana has a prior engagement but the guest list includes members of Britain's royal family as well as land-owning aristocrats and the rich and powerful.

Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger will rub shoulders with bankers Sir Evelyn de Rothschild and Lord Hambro. Australia's richest man Kerry Packer and multimillionaire Lord White. Broadcaster Sir David Frost and Prince Rupert Loewenstein, business manager to the Rolling Stones, will also be there.

Goldsmith's friends including "Sloane Rangers" from Chelsea and friends from Bristol University will add a touch of glamor and youth. Her "hen night" with 10 close friends was an alcohol-free affair at a fashionable restaurant.

(Reuters)

British, Irish work on IRA deadlock

DUBLIN (Reuters) — British and Irish officials are working to break a deadlock over the decommissioning of IRA arms which threatens to bring a 10-month Northern Ireland peace process to standstill.

Government sources said yesterday a committee comprising top British and Irish civil servants had been trying to draft proposals which the IRA's political arm, Sinn Fein, might find acceptable.

They said the civil servants were working on the proposals long before Sinn Fein's president Gerry Adams warned at the weekend of a return to violence in Northern Ireland and broke off exploratory talks with Britain.

Adams and his de facto deputy Martin McGuinness said they would stop taking part in the talks and called on Britain to convene fully fledged all-party talks as a matter of urgency.

The Sinn Fein president said there could be a return to violence if a breakthrough was not reached before the September 1 anniversary of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire which ushered in an unprecedented peace in Northern Ireland.

McGuinness told the BBC: "The British government themselves know there isn't even the remotest possibility of the decommissioning issue being resolved at this stage of the process."

But British officials said they stuck to their position that Sinn Fein had itself to make substantial progress towards taking out of service arms used in a 25-year campaign against Britain before the party could be invited to new peace talks.

Sinn Fein says the decommissioning issue should be broached in round-table negotiations on a lasting settlement for Northern Ireland and not as a condition for its entry to those talks.

Even if Britain and Ireland, joint partners in the quest for peace, could break the IRA arms stalemate, the road to all-party talks is strewn with other heavy obstacles, the officials said.

Northern Ireland's Unionists, which want the province to stay British, say they will not sit down with Sinn Fein unless all IRA guns are handed over and even then might boycott the talks.

Basque car bomb kills policeman

MADRID (AP) — A car bomb exploded on one of Madrid's main shopping streets early yesterday, killing one policeman and wounding six others.

The blast came shortly after the armed Basque separatist group ETA warned radio stations and firefighters of the attack.

The explosion shattered the storefronts of a large bookstore and the landmark Galerías Preciados department store about 7:15 a.m., 20 minutes after the warning calls were made.

Municipal police officer Jesus Rebollo, 38, was killed when the bomb exploded as authorities were cordoning off the area and evacuating nearby streets and stores, police said.

Six other officers received minor wounds. Authorities said the bomb was composed of 25 kg of explosives and a barrel of gasoline.

Rebollo was the fifth person to die this year in attacks by ETA, a Basque-language acronym for Basque Homeland and Liberty.



This collection of breathtaking aerial photos covers the entire country, providing its readers with the most picturesque, rarely seen views of Israel. These photographs illuminate the natural beauty of the land.

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Toward civil marriages

THE Chief Rabbinical Council's decision yesterday to erase 350 names from the list of "marriage ineligible" is, of course, welcome. If nothing else, it should dispel reports that the choice of names on the list is often arbitrary and baseless.

The existence of such a list is understandable. Within the framework of halachic law there are people who are ineligible for marriage for various religiously determined reasons. But it should be just as understandable that no free society can tolerate a situation in which people who do not believe in religious strictures would be prevented from marrying.

Credit for attempting to ease these strictures belongs to the new Minister for Religious Affairs Shimon Shetret, who has tackled the problem with unusual political courage.

He has not been quite bold enough - at least not yet - to propose the introduction of civil marriages in Israel. But he wants to enable those who cannot marry under existing laws to go abroad at the state's expense and marry there. Foreign marriages are, of course, recognized in Israel.

Unfortunately, this is not a felicitous idea. The Israeli taxpayer should not subsidize anyone's foreign travel for the purpose of marriage, no matter how unfair the current law is. The best that can be said about Shetret's proposal is that it serves to dramatize the absurdity of the existing situation.

The problem is not just the 3,800 names left on the Rabbinate's "forbidden" list, which include innocent offspring of illegitimate liaisons. There may be 100,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union who cannot be married in this country, because they fail to meet the Rabbinate's criteria for Jewishness. To finance their trips abroad is hardly an acceptable option, but it is even more unthinkable to relegate them to second-class citizenship by preventing them from marrying.

The religious parties are opposed even to Shetret's tentative and mild proposals, which include - in addition to the reexamination of the list of the unmarriageable - a stricter inspection of the distribution of funds to religious institutions, the allotment of land for secular cemeteries in the major cities, and control over burial societies' salaries and expenditures. In opposing reform, they cite the "status quo" agreement David Ben-Gurion made with the religious parties soon after the state was established. But the status quo of the 1950s has been violated by both sides, and it is time to reassess the agreement.

Israel is a Jewish state, and it must do its utmost to respect, preserve, and nurture the laws and values of Judaism. But Israel would be betraying not only its democratic ideals but its future as a magnet for world Jewry if it allowed coercion to prevail on either side of the religious line.

The world rolls on

IF there is one conclusion to be drawn from the weekend summit of the Group of Seven, it is that the power of democratic leaders may be diminishing even more rapidly than anyone imagined. Whether this is good or bad must be left for philosophers and historians, but the world's voters have never been more skeptical of Great Power politics nor more cynical of its would-be players.

The net result was a final statement from the G-7 that was nothing more than a wish list. Not one of the politicians present was in a position to offer decisive action on the political or economic direction the world should take for the next or any year. It is a far cry indeed from the world of 50 years ago, when the leaders of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom could sit down and carve the globe into spheres of interest and action which acquiescent voters or indoctrinated masses would accept as the dictate of their betters.

As Associated Press correspondent Maureen Johnson noted in her dispatch from Halifax, Nova Scotia, "If all it took was money or military might, there's not much the club of the world's top seven industrialized nations and Russia, its honorary member, couldn't do." The complex global web of voters, lobbyists, parliaments, markets, media, and pressure groups has turned that into a very big "if."

Of course, it is easy to mock this still very white middle-aged male club, which supposedly controls 90 percent of the world's military and economic power but can only issue effete and passive pleas for "an end to" wars, terrorism, poverty, unemployment, and unfair trade. But amid the mocking it is well to remember with some kindness how different it would be if the eight gathered in Halifax were powerful dictators. Many people in the G-7 countries and Russia may be frustrated by the uncertainties and pace of change in modern life, but few would swap them for the certainties of life in

North Korea, Cuba, or Saudi Arabia, to name but a few well controlled societies.

It is probable that we shall have to get used to the world's leaders being able to do no more than talk about their problems. If politics is the art of the possible, then what any political leader can do may be shrinking to a vanishing point. President Bill Clinton, having made grand statements about not abandoning America's European allies in Bosnia, had to make an apologetic admission that he probably couldn't deliver a cent to help pay for the proposed European rapid action force in former Yugoslavia. The president may have been in Halifax, but the purse strings remained back on Capitol Hill.

Pledges to fight international terrorism have become a standard formula at such meetings, yet the summit leaders gave little clue on what common factors there are in Oklahoma's right-wing extremism, Chechen nationalist terrorism in Budynovsk, or Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East.

The decision most touted as a conference fig leaf by the leaders was the agreement to prevent another crisis like the Mexican currency collapse last December, that rattled the world financial system. Since financial crises are as notorious for their unpredictability as flu viruses, this seemed no more than a decision to manufacture a vaccine which won't work on the next outbreak.

At the end of the day, the Serbs were censured, the Russians chided, the Japanese and Americans cautioned, unemployment condemned - and the world rolled on its own unpredictable orbit as if nothing had happened. Every leader went home to some major or minor domestic crisis of his own, and the only thing that can be guaranteed before the G-7 circus rolls to Lyon next year is that not one of them will give this year's final group statement another glance in the interim.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PAT ROBERTSON'S VIEWS

Sir, - In their article of May 25, "Two faces," Norman Lear and David Ramage of People for the American Way launched a failed attempt to demean and discredit religious broadcaster Pat Robertson through distortions and the use of statements out of context.

First, Mr. Robertson is an outspoken critic of antisemitism and long-time defender of Israel and the Jewish people. The record is clear.

On the pages of *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, Mr. Robertson has strongly condemned antisemitism and expressed regret to those who were offended by language in his 1991 book, *The New World Order*. In an April 12 column in the *Wall Street Journal*, Mr. Robertson wrote: "It saddens me to think that my words could be seen as anything but pro-Jewish. That was never the message, never my heart."

In his 1990 book, *The New Millennium*, Mr. Robertson decries a rising tide of anti-Jewish feeling in the world over and writes that "we must ensure that the trend throughout the 1990s remains in favor of a Jewish homeland in Israel and not for the elimination of the Jews."

Over the years, Mr. Robertson has lobbied for Israel, and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Jew-

ish interests and organizations - including Operation Exodus, a resettlement effort of Russian Jews. Lear and Ramage are equally wrong about Mr. Robertson's view on the separation of church and state. Consider the facts:

In 1991, on CNN's *Larry King Live*, Mr. Robertson said: "I think [the separation of church and state] is far better. You look at Europe where they have established churches and they are really dying out. We have a much healthier church here in America, free from government money.... But I don't think the Constitution requires gov-

ernment to be opposed to religious faith."

Finally, Mr. Robertson respects all religions. While he strongly embraces the tenets of Christianity, he does not force his beliefs on anyone. Clearly, People for the American Way has targeted Mr. Robertson because of his political views. Unfortunately, they are using religion as a weapon in this campaign.

GENE KAPP, Vice President, Public Relations, The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. Virginia Beach, Virginia.

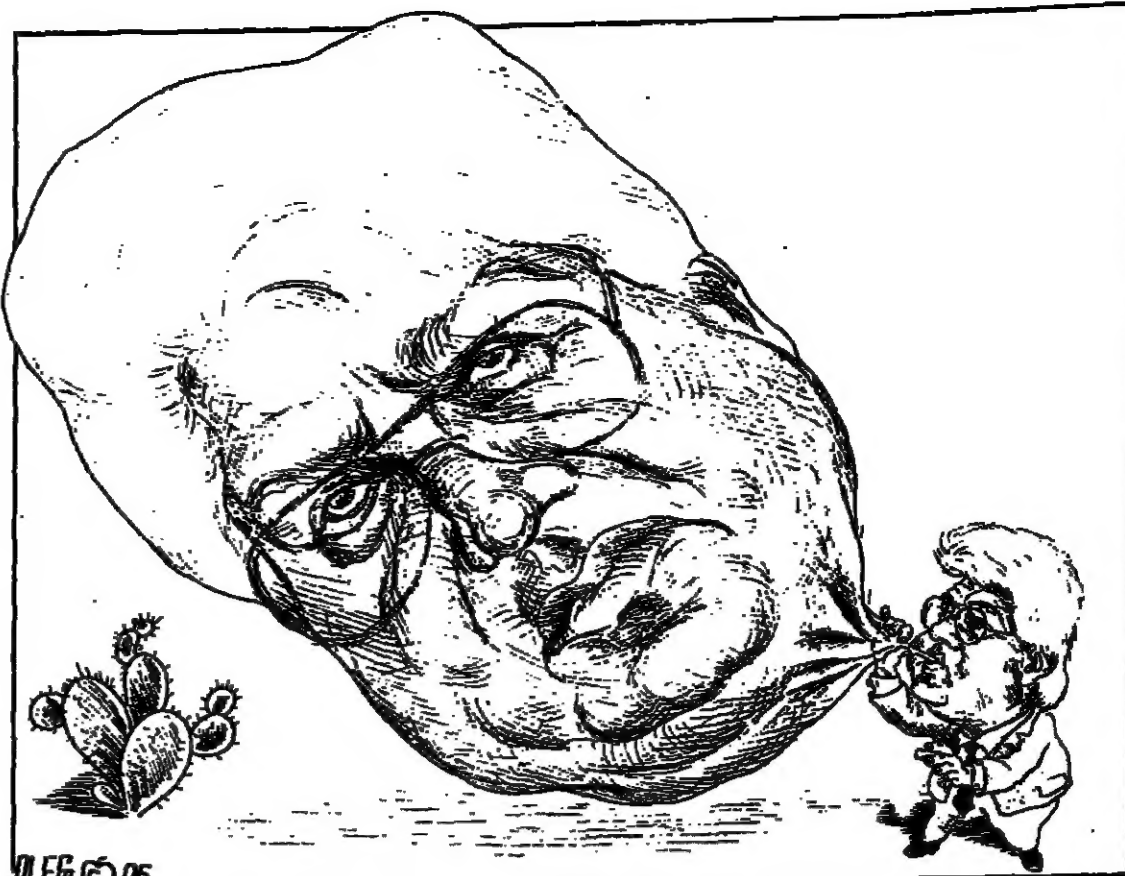
VISIT TO ORIENT HOUSE

Sir, - Is it not very strange that the foreign minister of Ireland insisted on visiting Orient House? For over 70 years, Ireland has protested worldwide at the partition of the "island of Ireland." Ireland has always proclaimed at the League of Nations, the United Nations and every available international forum that partition is no solution. Rather it only exacerbates and prolongs the strife. If it were not for partition, Ireland would have been at peace a long time ago. As one of their many dead patriots said, "Ireland divided shall never be at peace."

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring is the first foreign minister of that country to visit Israel. He is very welcome for many reasons, not least because he is a good friend of Israel and there is a great similarity between our two countries. It therefore appears strange that Mr. Spring encourages the partition of Jerusalem when he knows full well what it has led to in his own country. Does he not feel slightly embarrassed?

DANIEL BRISCOE, M.D. Ramat Gan.

OPINION



Assad must do better

SHIMON PERES is wrong when he says that "to remain on the Golan Heights is to give up on peace." He is also wrong when he says that trading the Golan would be "the basis for the end of war in the Middle East."

There already is peace in the Middle East. War ended when the Arab states lost the support of the Soviet Union and, with it, their military option against Israel.

Even without having the Golan Heights, Syria is effectively at peace with Israel. Its border is quiet. Its ability to win a war, and hence its willingness to go to war, can be considered negligible - which is the only reason it has come this far along the peace route.

Syria is a special case. Twenty-eight years ago, when Israeli troops stormed up the basalt cliffs and seized control of the Golan Heights, Israel had been in existence a scant 19 years. During those two formative decades, Syria was Israel's most tenacious, most implacable enemy.

All the Arab states were enemies, but their enmity was mostly exercised passively, through an economic boycott, or by proxy, aiding Palestinian terror groups operating from their soil.

Only Syria relentlessly and continually deployed its own guns, trying to abort the embryonic Jewish state. Its incessant shelling of border settlements forced generations of Israeli children to grow up believing that sleeping in underground shelters was normal. Its treatment of Israeli prisoners was so barbaric that those of us who were soldiers in the 1950s vowed to kill our-

EHUD YONAY

selves rather than fall into Syrian hands.

Syria's implacable hatred persisted in the two decades following its loss of the Golan. It joined Egypt for the jihad that was the Yom Kippur War, then turned viciously against Egypt, isolating and vilifying it for making peace with Israel.

Only the demise of his Soviet paymaster, political patron and arms supplier forced Hafez Assad to "give peace a chance." He did

Israel doesn't need the kind of peace Syria is offering

so grudgingly, distastefully, and gracelessly.

THINGS CHANGE. Israel has advanced so far economically, technologically and politically that today it is the dominant military force in the Middle East. The military equations of 28 years ago no longer hold. Considerations such as the possible return of Syrian guns to the rim of the Heights, the resumption of Syrian shelling of Jordan Valley kibbutzim, or a sneak Syrian invasion of Galilee are secondary, and easily addressed.

Syria with the Golan is no bigger military threat to Israel than without it.

Syria has changed, too. Assad is undoubtedly serious about working out some kind of peace terms with Israel, in exchange for

the Golan.

This shouldn't be taken lightly. In Assad's political and cultural community, it marks a sea change, even a cosmic upheaval. In Assad's world, merely uttering the words "full peace" - as in "full peace for full withdrawal" - can be suicidal.

But has Syria changed enough to offer Israel more than a glorified armistice - which it already has?

Assad has been very specific about what he wants from Israel: the whole Golan back, just as Egypt got back the entire Sinai. He is almost as specific about his idea of subsequent security arrangements.

But what isn't clear is whether he envisions, wants, or can deliver the kind of real peace Israel must have to even consider pulling back from any part of the Golan Heights.

Assad may settle for what Egypt got out of its peace agreement. But for Israel, the kind of cold peace it received from Egypt is no longer enough.

What Israel needs from Assad is a good-faith effort at erasing the corrosive deposits of five decades of incessant poisoning of Syrian hearts and minds against Israel.

It needs proof that Assad can and will rally his country's political, economic and cultural elites behind full peace with Israel. Not just enough peace to ensure the return of the Golan, but a complete, eight-cylinder peace agreement, with all it implies.

The author divides his time between his writing career in California and running an olive farm in Galilee.

Without lies or rhetoric

SOME people in this country are beginning to believe that you will easily win the next elections. Good. Many of us want to vote Likud, mainly to see the end of Labor/Meretz.

Frankly, this is really the only reason we want to vote Likud. You obviously know how the electorate feels about the Likud's previous performance, which induced us to throw you out.

We have no faith that the party has reformed; what's more, we see no real evidence that you have plans to reverse the disaster created by the present government. We do hear a lot of talk from you - but that's not going to satisfy us any more.

Hundreds of thousands of us believe that the Rabin/Peres regime has significantly weakened the country - not only strategically, but also with respect to our image abroad and our self-image. We appear to have reverted to a frightened, cowering, appeasing nation which has lost the determination to protect its own, or even to fight back when attacked.

Zionism has become unfashionable; we have no ideology except for materialism; and our youth has lost its passion for anything at all. We know all this. You know all this.

If you don't - if your high position insulates you - I suggest you start getting out more, not to shake hands or make speeches, but to take a look at your country's real condition.

Yes, many of us want to vote Likud. But only if you:

• can show us, without lies or rhetoric, that you have concrete

MARILYN MAGEN

plans to protect your people from massacre by Arab terrorists;

• can show us, without lies or rhetoric, that we will keep the Golan as part of Israel;

• can show us, without lies or rhetoric, your concrete plans to resolve the situation of our fellow Jews in Gaza;

• can spell out, without lies or rhetoric, your concrete plans for Judea and Samaria;

• can show us, without lies or rhetoric, how you plan to reverse

Let's have some serious answers, Bibi, if you want to be premier

the insane program of building Arab roads, impossible to police, crossing our country from Gaza to the West Bank;

• can spell out, without lies or rhetoric, how you plan to hold all of Jerusalem and solve the problems created by its Arab population;

• can prevent the entrance into the Knesset of more Arab parties; • can seriously attempt to create a government free of corruption and stop the nepotism, musical chairs and laissez-faire which are destroying our country.

YOU WON'T get our votes unless you can show us concrete plans to

push through all the political mud and create a better health-care system, rescue our failing educational system, stop drugs coming in and create an employment situation which doesn't depend on enemy labor.

We're sick of stop-gap, seat-of-the-pants solutions. Our politicians, as well as being corrupt, seriously lack foresight. In fact, they can't seem to see further than a few days ahead.

We're desperately unhappy with the Labor/Meretz government and ideology.

But we'd rather keep them in if you're going to be just as bad, or worse. We don't want you if you have no plans; if you have no strength or determination; if you're just going to play games with our lives; if you're out for personal gain; if you have no Zionism.

We don't want you, Bibi, if all you want is to be prime minister.

We want you to lose some sleep thinking seriously about all these issues. No vacations. No soccer. No TV. We want you to insist that your cronies and henchmen also lose sleep. We don't want an answer on these pages next week; we want answers - serious ones - three or four months from now.

We want a serious government, finally, one that cares about the future of this country and its people.

If you don't fit the bill - or can't convince us that you do - don't ask us for our votes come election time.

The writer is a former American lawyer who lives in Tel Aviv.

Back to work

YOSEF GOELL

ELECTIONS to the 14th Knesset may be 17 months away, but preparations for the event are already well afoot.

Last week a ministerial committee decided to refer the decision on one long-standing proposal to the full cabinet. The issue: abolishing the established custom of election day as a day off work and school.

Election day has been a national holiday since the elections to the First Knesset in January 1949.

Originally, this was part of the heady exhilaration that informed anything to do with the renewal of Jewish sovereignty after 2,000 years. That and the more prosaic need of the party operatives to make a last-ditch effort to get "their voters" to the polling stations.

In time the chief rationale for continuing to make election day a national holiday became the politicians' profound conviction that they needed to field tens of thousands of activists for an entire last day of frenetic activity aimed at ensuring that as many Israelis as possible voted - hopefully the "right way."

Over the past few decades an additional argument has been wheeled out.

Since the overwhelming majority of polling stations are in schools, the argument goes, classes must be closed down for the day and children kept home - which means that their parents also need to stay home to look after them.

But the time has come to abolish the practice.

The main reason is that Israel already suffers from a plethora of holidays, all serving as excuses to take off from work and study.

Not only is there no need to add to the roster of these "days off"; it is essential that the exist-

There's no reason why election day should be a national holiday

ing list be pared down wherever possible.

A RECENT study comparing the economies of 14 developed countries shows that Israel ranks last both in per-capita gross domestic product, and in per-capita productivity. We are the poorest of those countries not because we are the least able, but because we are the least productive.

Why are we the least productive? Because we have among the lowest rates of participation in the labor force, and we work the fewest days during the year.

On the positive side of things, we have one of the highest voter-participation rates among the world's democracies, which includes the 14 richest noted above. The proportion of Israelis who consistently turn out to vote is significantly higher than in most democracies.

After 13 national elections, it should be obvious that this statistic is a reflection of our political culture rather than merely the convenience of having the day off.

There is no need to open the polling booths in the schools at seven in the morning. Schools, which normally have classes only until 1 or 2 p.m., could easily be turned into polling stations from mid-afternoon on. Voting could continue until close to midnight.

And party operatives shouldn't kid themselves that their final frenetic push to grab the votes of their faithful on election day makes that much of a difference.

First of all, it has become virtually impossible to identify just whose "faithful" specific voters are, especially in this era of profound popular disgust with all the parties.

Secondly, voters make up their minds largely as a result of long-term exposure to the parties' records in the media, and the short-term impact of campaign-peddled TV.

Turning election day into a normal work and study day should form part of a much broader drive to shorten the duration of campaign periods as far as possible.

This is essential in order to reduce the scandalously high party campaign costs, and the unavoidable corruption funding them entails.

The writer comments on public affairs.

Diff'rent vocals, diff'rent focals

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

Stand up you've got to manage I won't sympathize anymore and if you complain once more you'll meet an army of me.

S O warns Björk in the first lyrics of *Post* (Helicon), her second solo recording.

It is quite a powerful opening thrust from the Icelandic alternative diva, whose wildly original *Debut* (Helicon) was a double-platinum sensation.

(The 29-year-old former lead singer of the Sugarcubes is scheduled to perform on August 29 at the Caesarea Amphitheater.)

Björk's intense, instantly recognizable vocal is delivered over a driving dance beat. It is not catchy in the traditional sense, and yet, it catches. As the disk's first single, it is likely to boost the recording and make it a big seller. Familiarity may, in turn, breed affection.

This is not the easiest album to love. Björk is as idiosyncratic as she was on her startling first album. Her vocals are oddly strangled, growling and screeching in an insistent way to convey her avant-garde observations. There greatness in her no-holds-barred experimentation and the music that backs her provide what is often a gorgeous, seductive soundscape. But hers is an uncompromising seduction.

Björk is unapologetically weird. And if you can't keep up, she implies, it's your problem. This attitude can be wonderful, but it gets a bit tiring.

Much of the album expresses ambivalence about letting a permanent lover into her life. And this is precisely what she acts out with the listener, the most entertaining exploration of the dilemma being her off-the-wall interpretation of 1940s Hollywood star Betty Hutton's "Blow A Fuse," which is blended into her own "It's Oh So Quiet." This is likely to be the second single. And, unlike many of the other cuts, it has the makings of an instant hit.

Like members of Britain's trip-

hop school - Massive Attack, Portishead and Earthling (whose *Earthling Radar* was misattributed to the Beastie Boys in last week's column) - Björk is riding the crest of an intellectually astute experimental wave.

The musicians she works with are gifted and sophisticated. They are in control of classical strings, heartbreaking harp and beautiful horns, as well as their jungle grooves.

And Björk makes memorable observations like, "in a heartful of dust lives a creature called lust." But you could hardly call this gang listener friendly. Letting them into your consciousness is like living with an extremely demanding lover. Nonetheless, Björk is undeniably brilliant. The sounds she is experimenting with will probably trickle down into the formulas of the mainstream quickly.

MEANWHILE, middle-of-the-road diva Alison Moyet, who is much less refined and innovative than Björk, offers up a collection called *Singles* (NMC) which makes for decidedly easier listening. A greatest-hits selection that includes material from her last six albums plus four new songs, it shows Moyet to be a comfortable companion.

Those who are stimulated by Björk's often-inspired experimentation may find Moyet's catchy hooks and upbeat arrangements to be dreadfully predictable. But this is definitely Moyet's territory.

She works well within the standard pop format and fills it out with her fine, full voice and plenty of unsentimental heart and soul. Though the songs' statements are uncomplicated, they are rarely trite.

Moyet is a sturdy, middle-browed woman from Essex who has the guts to tackle Roberta Flack's masterpiece, "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," and actually succeed. Other tracks include Moyet's standouts "All Cried Out," "Weak in the Presence of Beauty" and "Whispering Your Name." Hers is not



Icelandic singer Björk is unapologetically avant-garde, and if you can't keep up, she implies, it's your problem.

art with a capital A, but it is exceptionally well crafted and emotionally satisfying.

Björk and Moyet: nouvelle cuisine and solid home cooking. Take your pick.

Director breaks silence

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

O FIRA Henig hates ceremonies. She also hates interviews, which is why she has kept away from journalists for nearly two years, ever since leaving her position as house director at Habimah.

Now Henig is directing Bertolt Brecht's *The Wedding* for the Jerusalem Khan and is at long last willing to break her public silence in order to speak about her profession, the production, the theater and society in general.

She is willing to reveal nothing about her personal life.

"These were four very important years," she says of her time at Habimah, as she enjoys a cold drink and a cigarette at the Khan restaurant one recent afternoon.

Habimah was actually the first place I ever worked as a professional director, and I had a great time there. But something happened to me and I was afraid that I became dormant. Now I feel that I have at long last learned my craft. I'm a crafts-woman, and the time has come to move on from a mere professional director who can produce successful shows on call to an artist who has something real to say about life. I'm past the time in which I made good shows and everybody was happy."

She insists, though, that her departure from Habimah had nothing whatsoever to do with the upheaval at the national theater.

"I left just before the great mess began, just before [former artistic director] Gary Bili came on the scene."

What she did not like much at Habimah was being told what kind of a director she was and what kind of productions she should be involved in.

"They used to decide for me what plays I would do and in what way I should do them. I was also a member of the artistic committee there, and when suddenly the repertoire featured some plays I could not agree with, I felt the time had come to leave."

Since leaving Habimah, Henig directed two productions for the Beersheva Theater: Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke* and Willy Russell's *Educating Rita*. Both bore her very personal stamp of a sensitive director who has respect for both the text and the actors.

She has nothing but compliments for everyone involved in *The Wedding*.

Eran Baniel, the Khan artistic director, "listened to what I have to say about the play and didn't tell me what to do. Now I feel like I'm creating from scratch, and it's really exciting."

The Wedding is one of Brecht's earlier works in which he lashes out at anything bourgeois.

"It is not only against the bourgeois but also against the family,"

Henig says. "This play enables me to touch the deepest taboo of family life, the couple, the man and woman who are the nucleus of the family. It is a play with many specific situations, and I took each situation to the utmost and sharpened each and every physical and psychological moment."

Henig sees television as a threat to the theater.

"In this infantile era of our Second Channel, we must continue to do real theater without any attempt to reach the audience through so-called television style. Israeli society suffers today from a catastrophe. We must get over this phase in which we imitate American television, and eventually return to true authentic creation."

"I'm not going to lower my standards and my beliefs to bring in a larger audience. When someone comes to see a show I direct, they have to know how to listen. It's not that I'm not communicative."

She is aware that the message of the play, if not of her production, will be highly controversial.

"Brecht leaves no one out of his scrutinizing attack. The entire evening is built around two major recurring themes: the food, which is the basis of the wedding ceremony, and the furniture, built by the husband, which continually breaks. It is a play filled with filthiness and beastliness."

Funny in French, not Hebrew

LE DINER DE CONS (Simpleton to Dinner)

By Francis Weber. Hebrew. Avi Korn. Direction, Leslie Lawton. Set, Douglas Heap. Costumes, Michal Laor. At Beit Liessin Theater, Tel Aviv. Hebrew title: *Idiot Le aracha*.

Francois Avi Oria
Pierre Moshe Bekker
Marlene Dorit Peled

A splashy production in the lighthearted style of French boulevard comedy, Beit Liessin's *Le Diner* has almost everything it takes to emulate the two-year run of the Paris hit.

A cast of impeccable actors, a well-known British comedy director, a plush Parisian interior (done by the same British designer who did *Funny Money* at Beersheba), and an opulently modish wardrobe would seem enough for any well-cooked comedy.

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

Yet despite a story that is farcically funny, and situations, characters, and complications, all in the most Molièresque vein, the essentially French sophistication of the text suffers in transference to Hebrew.

It's not that present-day Israelis will have any difficulty recognizing Pierre, the cynical yuppie protagonist, his affluent surroundings, acquisitive tastes, or callous contempt for simpletons of a less arriviste order. The ridicule is rich. The satiric intent comes over acutely.

So perhaps it is the wit and elegance of language that loses something in translation. Fre-

quently, it also slows down the impact of a frantically funny and fast-paced direction.

For all that, at the slapstick level Moshe Bekker as the Man with the Bad Back and the sadistic sense of humor is caught up in bouts of excruciating pain that trigger off bouts of equally excruciating laughter. Avi Oria is the naive simpleton Francois, the intended victim of his baiting at a smart dinner party for the boys. Oria, trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, gives a deft, dovetailed performance that steals this show with its sunny warmth, understated humor, and quirky charm.

Dorit Peled, returning to our stage after an absence of some years, is ravishing in the role of the scatty nymphomaniac Marlene, Pierre's clairvoyant, Buddhist, brainwashed mistress.

'Shy' Sinead O'Connor flashes her talent, not temper

SINEAD O'Connor delighted some fans and disappointed others. Those who had hoped for a display of her infamous temperament instead found a very young woman intent on beautiful singing.

O'Connor (whose once-bald pate is now crowned with short hair) limited her patter and actually confessed that she felt shy in front of so many people. Her vocals were strong, however, clear and marvelously musical, demonstrating the benefits of her recent training in bel canto.

O'Connor's delivery of extremely personal material - most of it from her latest disc *Universal Mother* (NMC) - was direct and affecting. The band (which included two women) really kicked on several numbers, noticeably "Famine" and "Fire On Babylon."

Much of the show was quiet and included a cappella music, which some found a bit dull. But O'Connor's courage, integrity and sheer talent were highly impressive.

Sultan's Pool, Jerusalem, June 15.

Tirzah Agassi

IF CONVULSIVE movements are indications of passion, then the New Israeli Opera's revivals

of Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, directed by Christopher Alden, were extremely passionate.

The vocal indications in *Cavalleria Rusticana* were not always so unambiguous. Stefano Algieri, as Turiddu, did not do justice to his radiant tenor by being in a hurry. For example, his rendition of the "Drinking Song" was too breathless.

As Santuzza, Kathryn Harries' expression was often too exaggerated and unsteady to sound as moving as expected, and baritone Boaz Senator was too pale to sound convincing as the furious, betrayed husband Alfio. Susanna Waleston's somewhat insignificant mezzo-soprano and stage presence did not lend much substance to Lola.

In *Pagliacci*, Michal Shamir's light, bright-toned soprano created a lovely Nedda, and LeRoy Villanueva's enjoyable baritone made a credible, love-struck Silvio. Tenor Bechar struck a pleasant, lighthearted note as Arlecchino, but as Canio, tenor Jon Fredric West was too theatrical to be tragic.

The final killing scene, and the resurrection of the murdered Nedda and Silvio, turned the tragic climax into a farce.

The Opera Chorus sounded

tired at first, but returned after the intermission with more vigor.

Conducted by Asher Fisch, the Rishon LeZion Orchestra sounded clamorous and lacking in dynamic nuances. It was so preoccupied with sticking to a metronomic beat that no room was left for any tension.

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, June 12.

Ury Eppstein

A PARTICULARLY valuable contribution of the Belgian I Fiamminghi Orchestra, conducted by Rudolf Werthen, was Arvo Part's *Frates*. The work erects an arch-like tonal structure: an incessantly recurring melodic pattern, moving above a constant bass drone, gradually increases in volume up to a climax and then recedes again.

In Belgian composer Gabriel Verschraegen's *Three Flemish Dances*, solo oboist Joris van den Have played with agility, producing an agreeable, polished sound.

Rubinstein Competition first-prize winner Alexander Korsantya from Georgia was the soloist in Mozart's Concerto K.595. His performance showed him to be a pianist of phenomenal talent.

CONCERT ROUNDUP

The energies and tension in Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 were realized with sensitive restraint.

Jerusalem Theater, Israel Festival, June 9.

Ury Eppstein

THE ETHNIC minorities of Estonia, represented by the Estonian Philharmonic Choir conducted by Tõnu Kaljuste, are not merely "Forgotten People," as Veljo Tormis's song cycle is entitled. They possess a distinct musical tradition.

Both the songs and their rendition by the choir were enchanting. The songs, mostly consisting of short, repetitive melodic patterns, possibly harking back to ancient pre-Christian, shamanist sources, often create an almost hypnotic effect. Others are infectious dance-like, while some are mischievously amusing.

YMCA Auditorium, Jerusalem, Israel Festival, June 3.

Ury Eppstein

THE CLICHE of Nordic coolness was effectively dispelled by the passionate playing of the New Helsinki String Quartet.

The quartet's performance of Schubert's *Allegro Assai* op.

post., in true Romantic spirit, offered a forerunner of what was to follow. In Seter's extremely intricate and personal Quartet No. 2, the musicians displayed their remarkable ability to absorb a new work from a relatively remote musical culture.

They brought more pep and excitement to Ravel's String Quartet than is commonly attributed to this esthetician of a composer.

Their distribution of the vehement eruptive energies of the fast movements of Bartok's String Quartet No. 5 was impressive. They also put the work's meditative and ironic parts in their natural perspective.

Jerusalem Theater, Israel Festival, June 4.

Ury Eppstein

THE FIRST local performance of Richard Strauss's *Rosenkavalier Suite*, in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 10 conducted by Sergiu Comissiona, was particularly welcome. Unfortunately, the JSO sounded boisterous, making the elegant cavalier appear heavy, not quite getting off the ground, even in the waltz episodes.

stimulus from the recorded music of Luigi Nono.

Gal Alster contributed two solos, one heavily acrobatic, the other light-footed, both accompanied by trombonist Shlomi Alster.

A special achievement was Yael Shani's quartet (music by Ziv Aitan), in which four women made movements using the Noa Eshkol-Amos Hetz methods. Emanuel Gat chose Bach, while Sagit Gelman included Tibetan sounds. Two other soloists were Ruthy Weinschenk and Einat Cohen.

Filipino 'ambassadors' keep one step ahead of bamboo sticks

DORA SOWDEN

DANCE REVIEW

FORTY Filipino university students on a world tour danced and sang at the Noga Theater in Tel Aviv on June 11 with utterly captivating panache.

Under a conspicuously efficient director, their tribal dances had an effervescent vigor and their singing was at its best in strictly "serious" items like Mozart's "Alcibiades" and Jacob Galtus's "Musica." Their "Jerusalem of Gold," in Hebrew, was moving.

The dancers, in tribal costuming - the men naked except for broad panels front and back and feathered headdresses; the

women fully clothed in finely embroidered garments, manipulating fans and wearing headgear similar to fans - moved with grace.

Equally exciting was their traditional barefooted dance between bamboo poles moving at increasing speed.

HABAMA, in Jerusalem's Talpiot neighborhood, has established itself as a show-

case for dancers/choreographers.

One of its latest ventures was a two-program event on June 5-6, with two performances each day.

Not all the participants were newcomers. Anat Shangar, for instance, is already well known for her "improvisations." Shangar's solo, *Monologue*, had less than her usual inventiveness, lacking sufficient

Coming shortly

A Passage to India

with The Jerusalem Post Travel Club

New England Conservatory Youth Orchestra

Jerusalem - tonight!

DESIGN A POSTER COMPETITION

The Event, the largest gathering of English speaking Israelis, will take place again this year on Tuesday, October 10 (Hol Hamoed Succot) at the Wingate Institute.

Some 10,000 visitors are expected for a day of family fun, sport and entertainment.

The Event Committee invites artists to submit designs for The Event poster. All designs should be in color, in a size proportionate to 70 x 50 cm. They should be submitted to The Event, Poster Competition, BOS, 76 Ibn Givoli, Tel Aviv 61162, by July 1, 1995.

The Event Committee will select the winning design, but does not undertake to choose any design, and their decision will be final.

The winning design will become the property of The Event Committee, to be used as they see fit. All other designs will be returned, if they are sent with a stamped, addressed return envelope.

The designer of the poster chosen will be awarded a prize of a free air return ticket to London, courtesy of Ophir Tours, Israel's leading travel agent.

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 2.9620	-0.24%
Stirling	NIS 4.7388	-0.36%
Mark	NIS 2.1167	+0.26%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Value	Change
Dow Jones	5,983.25	-62.50
S&P 500	442.85	-2.15
NASDAQ	1,125.15	-15.25
NYSE	1,125.15	-15.25
AMEX	1,125.15	-15.25

Other stock market indexes

Index	Value	Change
FTSE 100	3,381.3	+1.2
Nikkei 225	14,700.6	+1.1
Hong Kong	10,512.5	+0.5

Israeli stocks in NY

Stock	Price	Change
Bezeq	189.31	-1.14%
Maof	191.51	-0.92%
Karam	153.15	-1.05%

NYSE / AMEX

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Bezeq	189.31	-1.14%
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AMEX

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LIBOR RATES

Rate	Value	Change
3 months	5.875%	0.000%
6 months	5.875%	0.000%
12 months	5.875%	0.000%

FOREIGN FINANCIAL DATA

CommStock Trading Ltd.

Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem

Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826 Fax. 02-244876

NEW YORK COMMODITIES

US commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Coffee (Arabica)	129.00	-0.10
Cocoa (1% butterfat)	1,100.00	-10.00
Wheat (hard red winter)	12.50	-0.05

London commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Coffee (Arabica)	129.00	-0.10
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Wheat (hard red winter)	12.50	-0.05

Spot market metals (US)

Metal	Price	Change
Gold (100g)	384.50	+1.70
Silver (100g)	5.10	+0.05
Copper (100g)	1.10	+0.01

New York metal futures

Metal	Price	Change
Gold (100g)	384.50	+1.70
Silver (100g)	5.10	+0.05
Copper (100g)	1.10	+0.01

London metal fixes

Metal	Price	Change
Gold (100g)	384.50	+1.70
Silver (100g)	5.10	+0.05
Copper (100g)	1.10	+0.01

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Stock	Price	Change
Bezeq	189.31	-1.14%
Maof	191.51	-0.92%
Karam	153.15	-1.05%

Two-sided trading

Stock	Price	Change
Bezeq	189.31	-1.14%
Maof	191.51	-0.92%
Karam	153.15	-1.05%

PARALLEL LIST

Stock	Price	Change
Bezeq	189.31	-1.14%
Maof	191.51	-0.92%
Karam	153.15	-1.05%

Afternoon

Stock	Price	Change
Bezeq	189.31	-1.14%
Maof	191.51	-0.92%
Karam	153.15	-1.05%

Morning

Stock	Price	Change
Bezeq	189.31	-1.14%
Maof	191.51	-0.92%
Karam	153.15	-1.05%

Two-Sided Index

Index	Value	Change
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Maof Index

Index	Value	Change
Maof Index	191.51	-0.92%

Karam Index

Index	Value	Change
Karam Index	153.15	-1.05%

THE market fell after two days of gains as shares in Bezeq slumped 6.25 percent.

The fall in Bezeq shares follows an almost 20% gain last week as British telecommunications firm Cable and Wireless increased its stake in the company by 3.01 percentage points to 10.02%.

The government, which owns 77% of Bezeq, has called on Cable and Wireless to "define its relations with Bezeq," which has been seen as a call for them to stop buying Bezeq's shares.

"Investors bought Bezeq because of the off-the-floor purchases," said Zvi Hoffman, fund manager at investment firm Meitav. Now it seems this buyer bought as much as it will.

The Two-Sided Index fell 1.14% to 189.31, while the Maof Index decreased 0.92% to 191.51.

Across the exchange as a whole, more than twice as many shares fell as rose.

The value of shares changing hands was NIS 121.7 million, NIS32.8m. below Sunday's level and roughly NIS 20m. above May's average daily losses.

Declining shares on the Maof included investment company IDB Development Corp., which fell 2.25%; Bank Hapoalim, which fell 2% and Tevaz Pharmaceuticals, which decreased 0.5%.

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All indexes close lower as Bezek tumbles 6.25%

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ

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Blue chips hit new 15-month closing high

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Blue chips hit a new 15-month closing high in a quiet, featureless market as stock shortages and gains on Wall Street spurred shares up.

In a week of sparse economic data, the trend on the US market, UK political concerns and bid talk were likely to remain to the fore.

The FTSE 100 closed 15.2 points higher at 3,381.3, beating its previous 15-month high of 3,380.8 set on June 8.

FRANKFURT - The German DAX index, taking its cue from the rising futures contract, climbed in floor trade and unexpectedly extended gains in after-hours dealings.

The 30-share index climbed 21.96 points to end trading at 2,141.75, near session highs and rose another 13 points in after-hours trading.

The late day gains traders' moods leading them to hope a new rally may not be far off.

PARIS - Shares rose, buoyed by a rise on Wall Street and firm bond prices.

But activity was thin, as many investors are waiting on the sidelines ahead of the new government's budget on Thursday.

The CAC-40 index of leading French shares closed up 13.48, or 0.71 percent, at 1,918.43.

ZURICH - Shares extended gains in afternoon trading.

Dealers said a recovery in the dollar and firmer bond futures supported shares. All-share SPI up 15.51 to 1,848.09.

Dealers said further gains were possible on Tuesday if Wall Street holds higher level.

LONDON - The Hang Seng index rose 51.95 points to 9,313.95.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market closed a touch weaker in a subdued reaction to the Dow's close above the 4,500 level on Friday.

The All Ordinaries Index finished 0.6 points weaker at 1973.8.

JOHANNESBURG - Shares ended broadly firmer as a firm bullion price and continued world market strength buoyed sentiment in mostly slow trade.

Dealers said the half-day strike called by the three trade unions appeared to have had little effect on prices, but limited volumes signaled continued investor nervousness about returning in force to the market.

Traders said prices were dependent on gold in the short term after the gold index followed up a four percent rise on Thursday with a rise of close to 3% today.

The overall index added 34.2 points to 5,469.4, the industrial index added 24.9 points to 6,809.8 and the gold index rose 41.1 points to 1,504.2.

PARIS - The Nasdaq index also set a new high, rising 13.43 points to 922.08.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines 13.9 on active trading of 323 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow was up 42.89 points at 4,553.68, eclipsing Fri-

day's record closing high of 4,510.79.

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Police question Kessar on funds

RAINE MARCUS

TRANSPORT Minister Yisrael Kessar was questioned under caution about the alleged misappropriation of Histadrut funds for five hours by the National Fraud Squad yesterday.

This was the first time that a minister was investigated in the case. Unlike other MKs, Kessar was summoned to Israel Police headquarters in Jerusalem, rather than being questioned at the National Fraud Squad's Jaffa headquarters.

Kessar was asked about the alleged misuse of Histadrut and other funds in his 1992 primary campaign for the Labor Party leadership against Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. Police suspect that he may have used Histadrut funds and money from non-profit organizations to finance his election campaign. Other allegations include the transfer of money to his campaign through

false invoices.

National investigations chief Cmdr. Yossi Levy told reporters that Kessar was not summoned "just to give evidence." Kessar, he said, cooperated fully and answered all questions.

Levy would not go into further details, but just said the probe related to Kessar's "personal and inclusive responsibility as former Histadrut secretary-general."

Other sources said that it is doubtful whether there is evidence implicating Kessar in any crime.

Kessar refused to comment when he arrived for questioning at 9 a.m. When he left at around 2 p.m., he agreed to say a few words to reporters.

"I just want to reiterate everything I have said in the past," he said. "Minister Kessar's good name, honesty, and his credibility



Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar (second from right) leaves Israel Police headquarters yesterday, after being questioned about use of Histadrut funds. (Flash 90)

will remain."

Police said it has not yet been officially decided whether Kessar would be summoned again for ques-

tioning, but sources said they believe he would not be.

Levy said that others allegedly involved in the affair would be sum-

moned for questioning, and while the investigation is not complete, much evidence has already been transferred to the District Attorney's

Office.

He could not predict when indictments against suspects would be prepared.

700 observers will monitor PA elections

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ABOUT 700 foreign observers will monitor the Palestinian elections, Foreign Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer, who heads the teams negotiating the issue with the Palestinians, said yesterday.

Singer and chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat are meeting members of the European Union, which is to coordinate the observer team.

"They will set common stan-

dards and coordinate between all the different observers in the field. We are talking about some 700 people," Singer told Israel Radio.

Most of the issues relating to the elections have been resolved. Left unresolved are questions whether Palestinians from eastern Jerusalem may run for office

and whether voting will take place inside the city.

Another unresolved issue is the size of the planned Palestinian self-rule council. The Palestinians want 75-80 delegates, while Israel has called for 35.

Israeli officials expect the elections sometime this fall, following IDF redeployment from major Palestinian cities in the territories.

Controversial colonel promoted

ALON PINKAS

THE commander of a tank brigade whose exercise was stopped by Chief of General Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak last week because of poor performance will be appointed the deputy commander of a division, army sources confirmed. The decision to appoint Col. G. as the deputy commander of division, commonly regarded as an unappealing post, was made several months ago, the sources said.

Several months ago, Col. G. was involved in a public scandal when he told Jerusalem high school students that "throughout history, men were warriors and women whores." He was reprimanded by the CGS and publicly apologized for his statement.

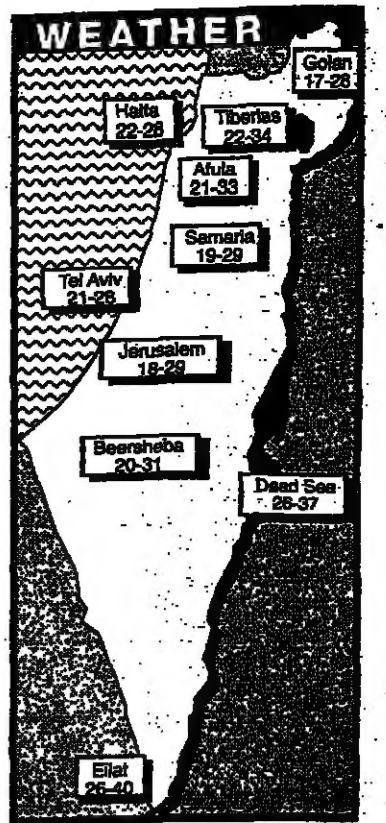
Corporal gets 30 days for refusing duty

RAFAEL Maron, 26, a reserve corporal from the settlement of Yitzhar, was sentenced by a military court yesterday to 30 days in jail for refusing to do his reserve duty because of political reasons.

Maron reported to his base near Nablus and said he would not serve because he does not want to take part in "abandoning parts of Eretz Yisrael."

Maron is the secretary of Yitzhar.

Herb Keiron



AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp (C)	Temp (F)
Amsterdam	10	50
Berlin	13	55
London	15	59
Paris	18	64
Rome	20	68
Madrid	22	72
Barcelona	24	75
Frankfurt	12	54
Copenhagen	10	50
Stockholm	8	46
Helsinki	12	54
Oslo	10	50
Warsaw	15	59
Budapest	18	64
Vienna	15	59
Zurich	12	54
Geneva	10	50
Brussels	12	54
Amsterdam	10	50
London	15	59
Paris	18	64
Rome	20	68
Madrid	22	72
Barcelona	24	75
Frankfurt	12	54
Copenhagen	10	50
Stockholm	8	46
Helsinki	12	54
Oslo	10	50
Warsaw	15	59
Budapest	18	64
Vienna	15	59
Zurich	12	54
Geneva	10	50
Brussels	12	54

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, jack of hearts, eight of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

Your Wednesday Bonus:

MONEY MAGAZINE

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YOUR WEEK JUST GOT EVEN BRIGHTER THE JERUSALEM POST

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Diaspora contributed only 10% of money needed for absorption

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Jewish world has contributed only about 10 percent of the money needed to absorb the new immigration wave, and the burden has been placed on the Israeli citizen, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Zionist General Council last night.

"Israel has spent \$3 billion-\$4 billion on immigrant absorption," Rabin said. "The contribution of world Jewry has amounted to about 10% of that. It is the average Israeli citizen that is carrying the burden."

Rabin added that the two great waves of aliyah - that from the Arab states in the early 1950s and that of the past five years - had changed the face of Israeli society. He noted with satisfaction that most of today's immigrants are being absorbed in development towns by those who came here in the '50s.

Avraham Burg, newly elected permanent chairman of the World Zionist Organization, called on the government to adopt an emergency plan to maintain the Jewish people's spiritual and religious character in Israel and the Diaspora.

Earlier, Burg said he plans to resign his Knesset seat, after he is elected chairman of the Jewish Agency, when the agency's assembly convenes on Sunday. Burg has been temporary chairman of the WZO and the agency since February.

Trying to breathe new inspiration into the stagnant national institutions, Burg called on the delegates to spend the week together in soul-searching. Any further cut-backs required to put the national institutions onto the right track, he said, "would be agreed upon in the spirit of a cultured dialogue... No organization is so holy that it cannot be changed."

Burg said that his plan, Brit Am - A Covenant for the People - was a concept of how national institutions should operate. It is open to revision and suggestions and no operative details had not yet been worked out, he said.

It would first be necessary, he said, to secure the agreement of the fund-raisers for a fixed budget over a prolonged period.

The plan stresses the centrality of Jewish-Zionist education throughout the Jewish world. Burg also proposes the unification of the WZO and the agency, the establishment of a Jewish peace force, an AIPAC-like Jewish lobby in Israel, and greater involvement by both Diaspora and Israeli Jewry in the decision-making of the Zionist movement. Although the plan has not been distributed, delegates from abroad expressed fear their voice will no longer be heard within a new organizational structure.

THE JERUSALEM POST TOY FUND

LITTLE HEARTS BREAK EASY

Imagine a child in a poor family, or in a home for orphans or the disabled. There's always a reason, it seems, for other kids to get presents: holidays, birthdays, achievements, or just for being good.

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The Jerusalem Post Toy



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